The Basics

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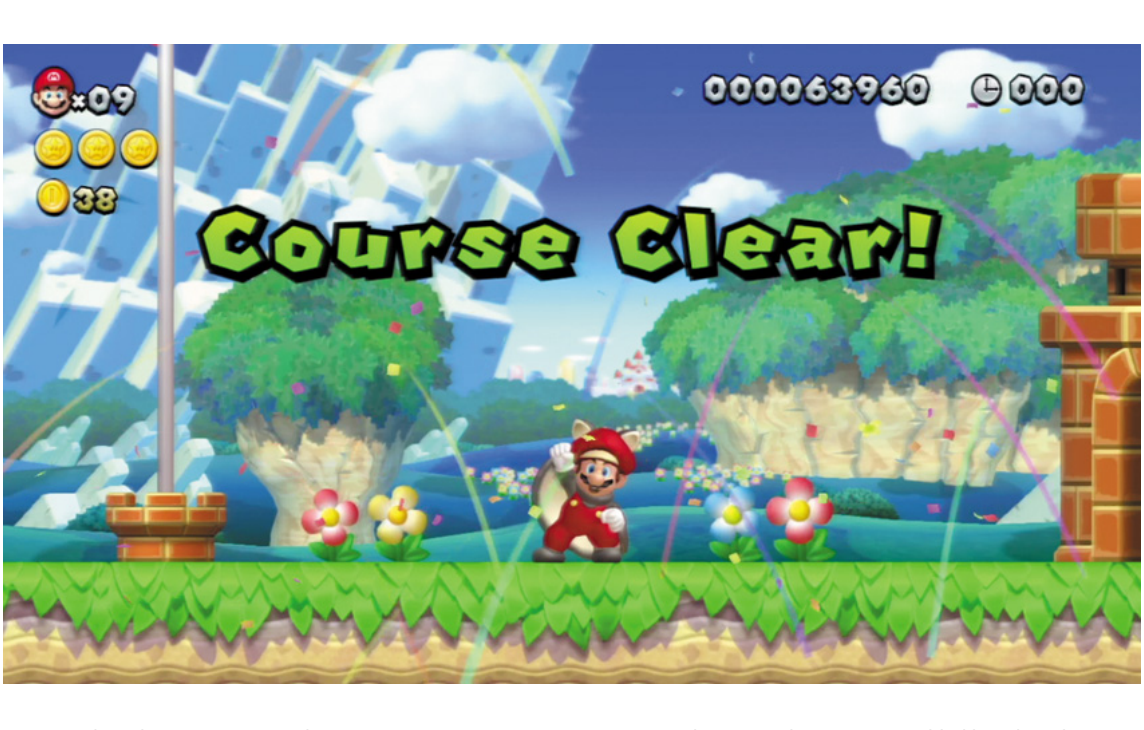
Story Mode Progression

Using the Maps

We've done our best to make the Walkthrough maps as detailed and informative as possible. Here are some important notes regarding the maps:

- Power-Up icons show the best possible Power-Ups that can be obtained from Blocks. However, small characters will often find Super Mushrooms instead of these Power-Ups.
- Moving platforms are usually shown in their starting (or neutral) positions.
- Hidden areas, such as crannies concealed behind false walls, are always revealed.
- Dark areas are fully illuminated and exposed.
- Areas that undergo significant changes during a level are shown in the state that offers the most information. For example, if a platform must be moved in order to discover something valuable, that platform might be shown in a different position than its original starting position.
- Hidden Blocks are shown by the used Blocks that are left behind after you've discovered them.
- P Switches, ? Switches, and Trampolines are shown on the maps, even when they're concealed within Blocks.
- Useful temporary platforms are also shown on the maps. This includes platforms and Blocks that only appear while a P Switch or ? Switch is active.

Clearing Levels

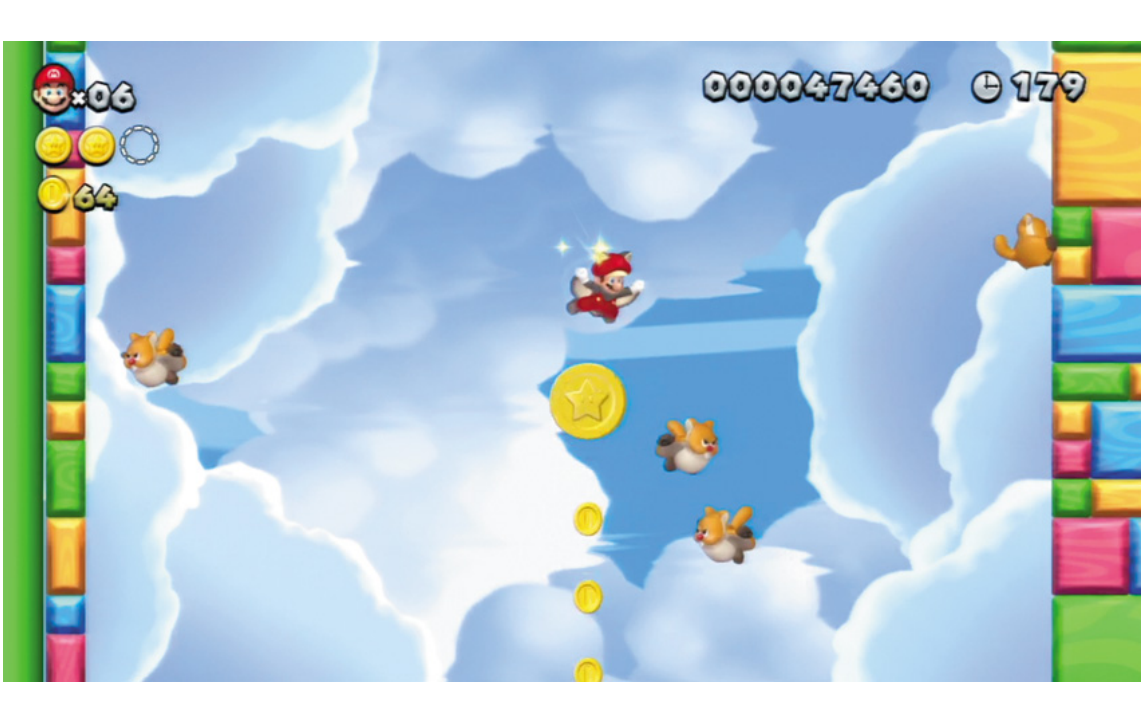


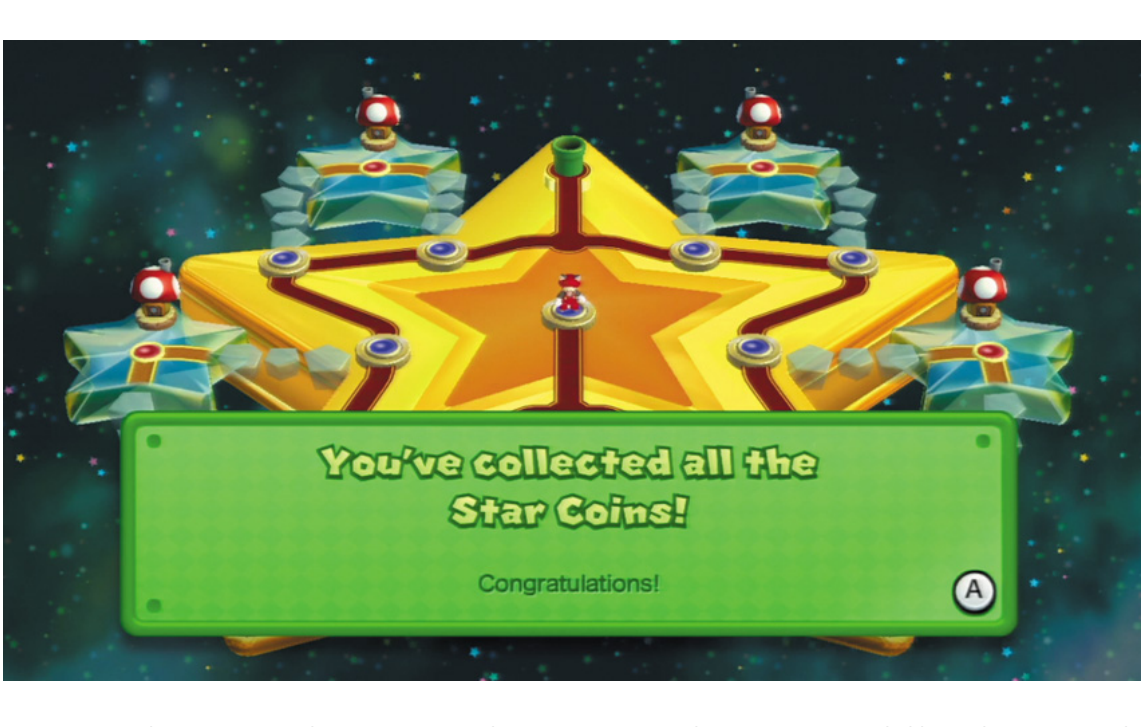
Story Mode is the main game mode in New Super Mario Bros U. In Story Mode, you explore a vast, troubled kingdom that features several unique zones. Each zone has its own feel and features multiple levels (or stages), and you must clear each stage to unlock the next. Simply enter a level, then make your way to the Goal Pole at its end. Touch that Goal Pole to clear the stage!

Tip

Reach the top of each Goal Pole to score 1-Ups!

Star Coins



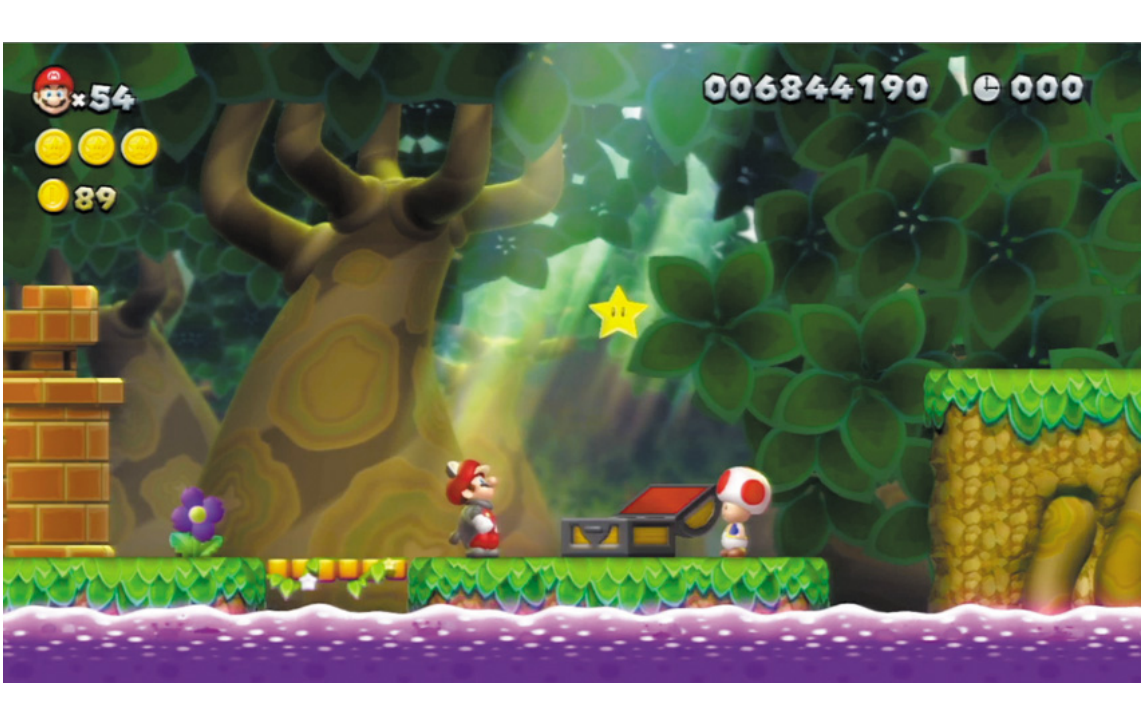


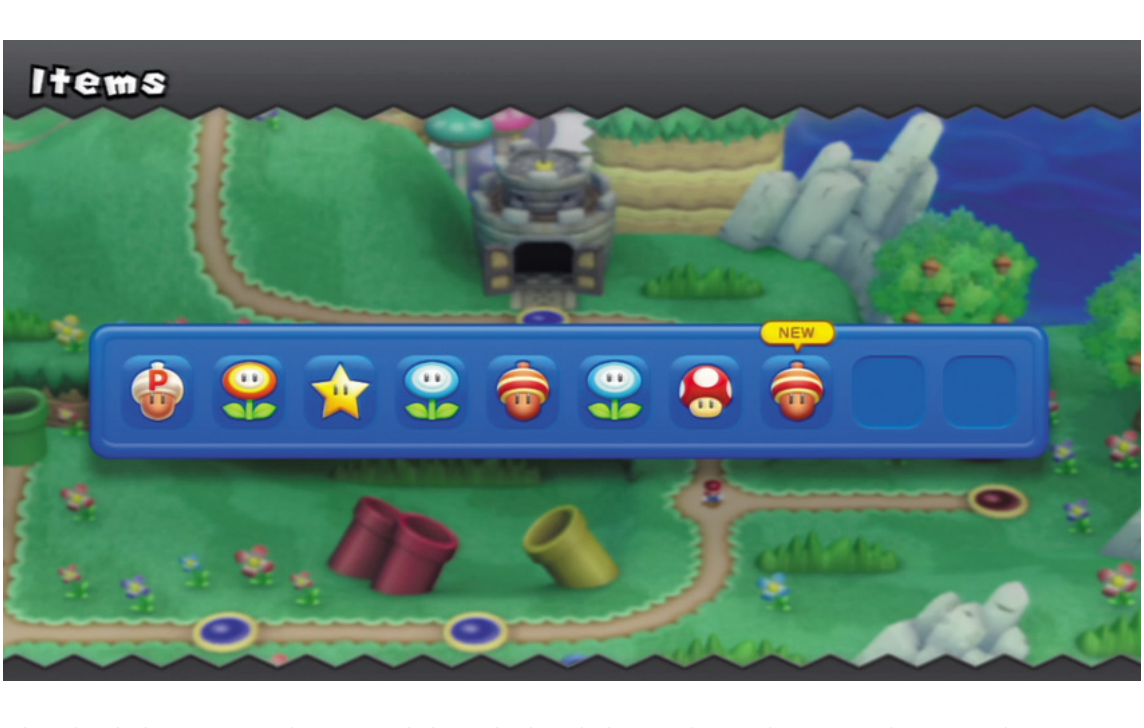
Every Story Mode stage contains three precious items known as Star Coins. These prizes are often hidden, so be sure to search everywhere! Collect all three Star Coins on every stage to unlock bonus Story Mode levels that can be played after you beat Peach's Castle Finale—The Final Battle.

Note

A special message appears on the World Map when you collect the final Star Coin from a zone, so you always know when your search is over.

Treats from Toad





Take a close look at your time when you touch the Goal Pole. If the last two digits of the timer are the same, such as two fives or two eights, then Toad will appear and give you a present! These presents are Power-Ups that you may keep until you wish to use them. Simply call up the Items menu on the World Map to view all of your Power-Ups, and choose which one you'd like to use before entering the next stage.

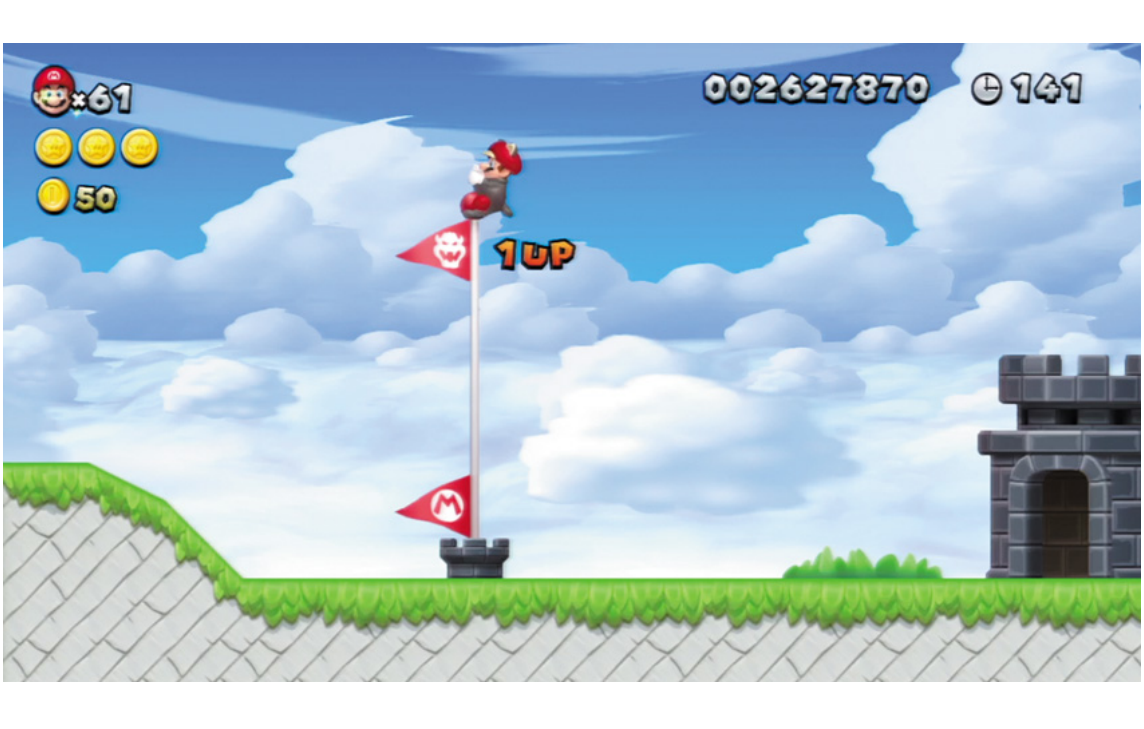
Note

Here is what Toad will give you when you touch the Goal Pole with double digits on the timer:

- 11, 22, or 33—Super Mushroom
- 44—Fire Flower
- 55—Ice Flower
- 66—Mini Mushroom
- 77—Super Acorn
- 88 or 99—Super Star

(You must collect each of these items in Story Mode before Toad will give them to you.)

Secret Exits



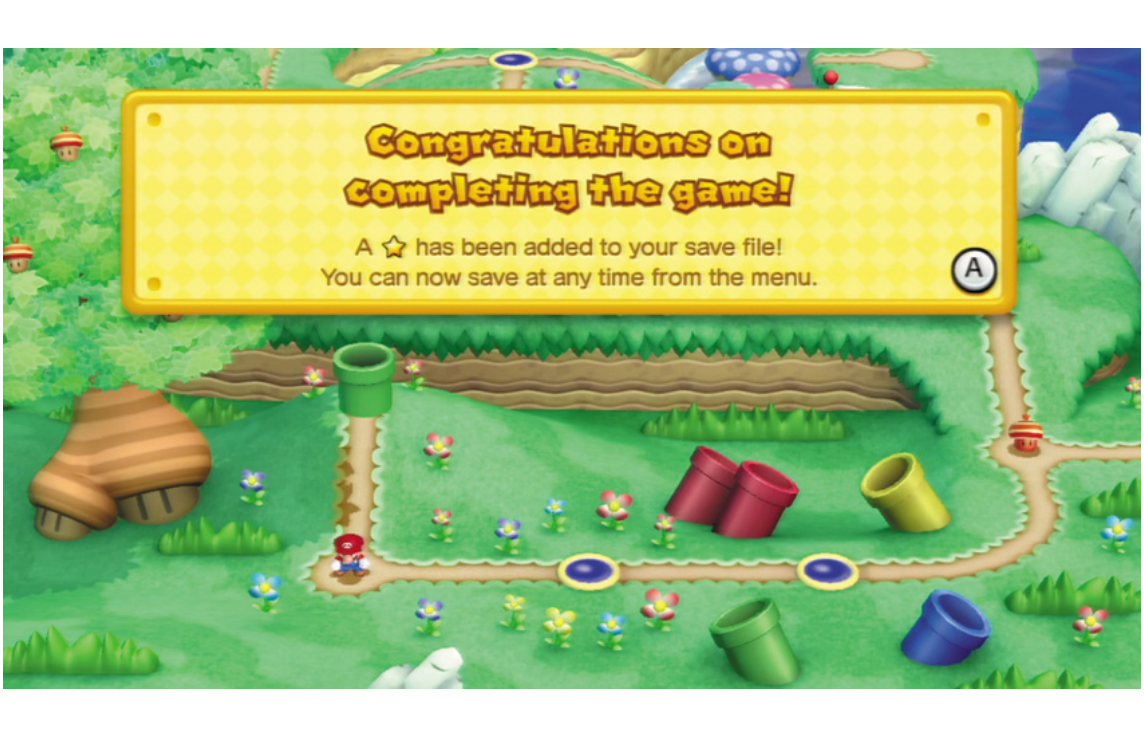
Most stages have only one Goal Pole, but a few feature two Goal Poles—the second one is found at the stage's secret exit! These secret exits are always cleverly hidden, so you need to search high and low to find them. Discover these secret exits and touch the Goal Pole at the end to unlock a hidden path on the World Map!

Some of the World Map's hidden paths provide shortcuts through a zone, while others lead to secret levels. Beat those secret levels, and you'll unlock some serious shortcuts around the World Map. The following table reveals every stage that features a secret exit, and where the exit will take you.

Story Mode Secret Exits

Stage	Unlock
Acorn Plains 2—Tilted Tunnel	Hidden path to Acorn Plains Secret Stage—Blooper's Secret Hideout
Layer-Cake Desert 4—Spike's Spouting Sands	Hidden path to Layer-Cake Desert Secret Stage—Piranha Plants on Ice
Sparkling Waters Boo House—Haunted Shipwreck	Hidden path to Sparkling Waters Secret Stage—Skyward Stalk
Frosted Glacier Boo House—Swaying Haunted House	Hidden path to Frosted Glacier Secret Stage—Fliprus Lake
Soda Jungle 2—Bridge Over Poisoned Waters	Hidden path to Soda Jungle 6—Seesaw Bridge/Soda Jungle 7—Wiggler Stampede
Soda Jungle Boo House—Which-Way Labyrinth	Hidden path to Soda Jungle Secret Stage—Flight of the Para-Beetles
Soda Jungle 4—Painted Swampland	Hidden path to Soda Jungle 6—Seesaw Bridge/Soda Jungle 7—Wiggler Stampede
Soda Jungle 5—Deepsea Ruins	Hidden path to Soda Jungle 6—Seesaw Bridge/Soda Jungle 7—Wiggler Stampede
Rock-Candy Mines Tower—Grinding-Stone Tower	Hidden path to Rock-Candy Mines 6—Thrilling Spine Coaster
Rock-Candy Mines 5—Walking Piranha Plants!	Hidden path to Rock-Candy Mines Tower—Screwtop Tower
Meringue Clouds Boo House—Spinning Spirit House	Hidden path to Meringue Clouds Castle—Ludwig's Clockwork Castle
Peach's Castle 1—Meteor Moat	Hidden path to Peach's Castle 4—Firefall Cliffs

Profile Stars


Congratulations on completing the game!
A ☆ has been added to your save file!
You can now save at any time from the menu.
A

Each time you accomplish a major feat in Story Mode, a star will be added to your profile. Here's how to earn all five profile stars:

- 1st Star - Beat Story Mode (clear Peach's Castle Finale—The Final Battle)
- 2nd Star - Clear all courses (this does not mean you have to find all the secret exits!)
- 3rd Star - Collect all Star Coins up through Peach's Castle
- 4th Star - Collect all Star Coins in Super Star Road to open the final stage (Super Star Road 9 - Follow That Shell!)
- 5th Star - Collect all Star Coins in the game, find all the secret exits (94 flags on player file select screen), and catch Nabbit in every zone at least once (Nabbit only appears in World 1 - World 7).

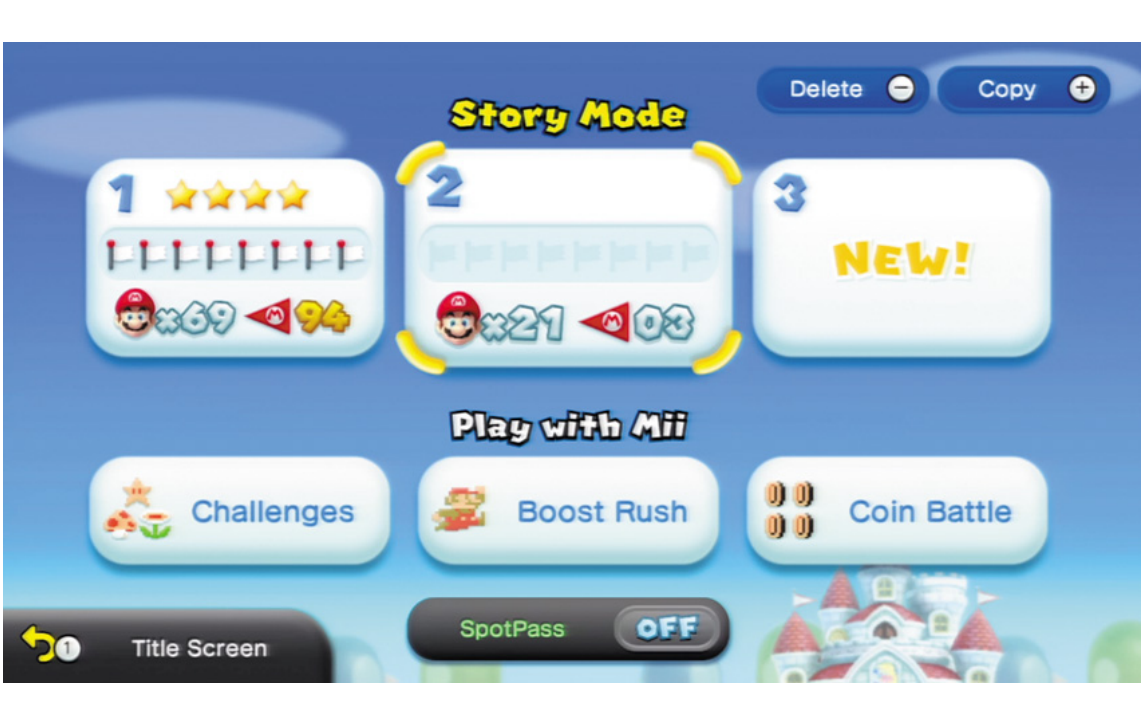
Note

After you earn your first star by beating Story Mode, you'll also be able to save your progress at any time through the pause menu. Handy!

Note

Once you've earned all five profile stars, all Toad Houses that you've visited will reappear on the map. And from this point forward, they'll no longer vanish after you visit them. Nice!

Profile Flags

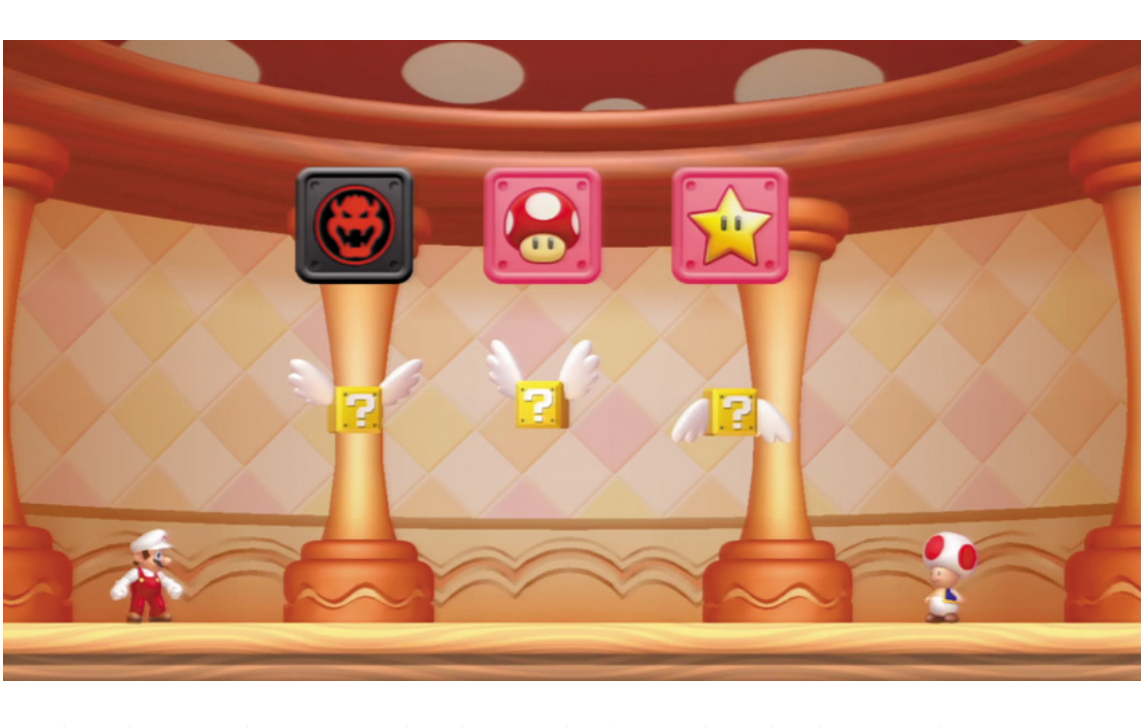


Every time you touch a new Goal Pole, you'll earn a profile flag. There are 82 levels, but 12 of them have two exits instead of one. This means there are 94 profile flags to collect in all! Your profile flag number changes from silver to gold after you've found all 94, so you know when you've found every Goal Pole.

Note

The white flags that also appear on your profile indicate the zones that you've cleared—there are nine of these flags to collect in all.

Toad Houses



Swing by Toad Houses to play minigames with Toad for fun and profit! Visit red-roofed Toad Houses to play for Power-Ups, and pop by green-roofed Toad Houses to try for some lovely 1-Ups. Toad's games are simple and fun, and most challenge either your reflexes or memorization skills.

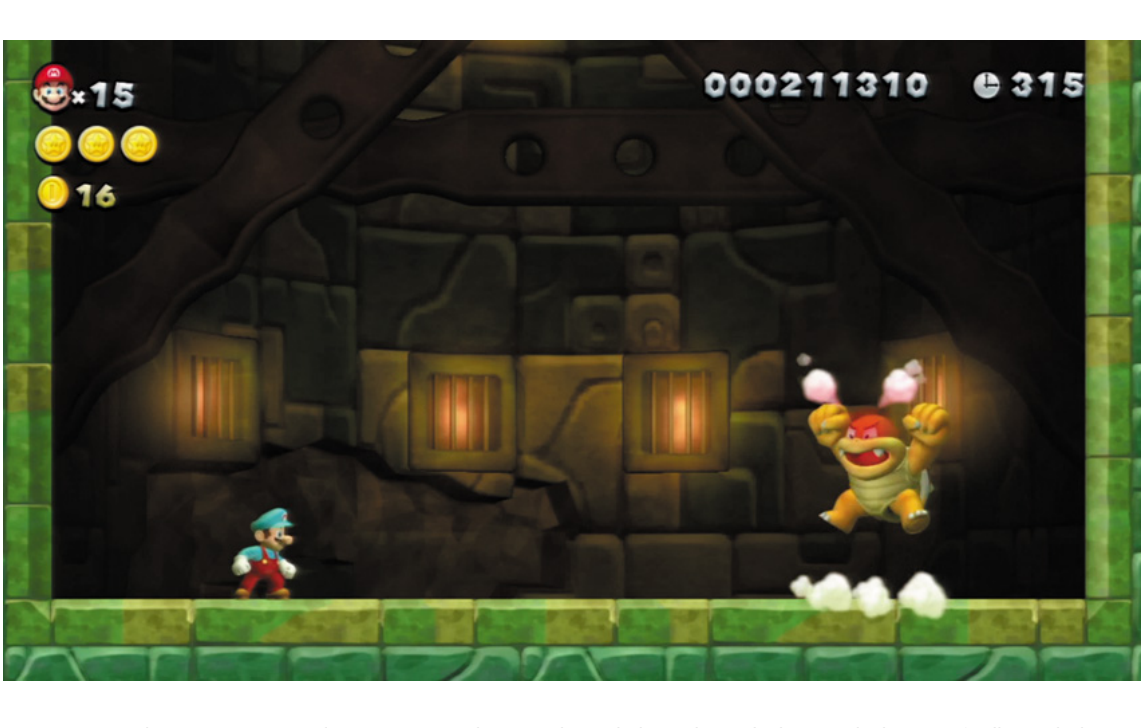
Note

Toad Houses vanish from the World Map after you visit them. Don't worry, the next one's never far!

Boo Houses

Spooky Boo Houses are filled with false walls, trick doors, and of course, plenty of Boos. These zany stages can be quite confounding, but Boo Houses must be braved if you want to advance through Story Mode. All Boo Houses feature more than one exit, so it's worth exploring them thoroughly. Rely on the Walkthrough to help you navigate these peculiar places!

Towers

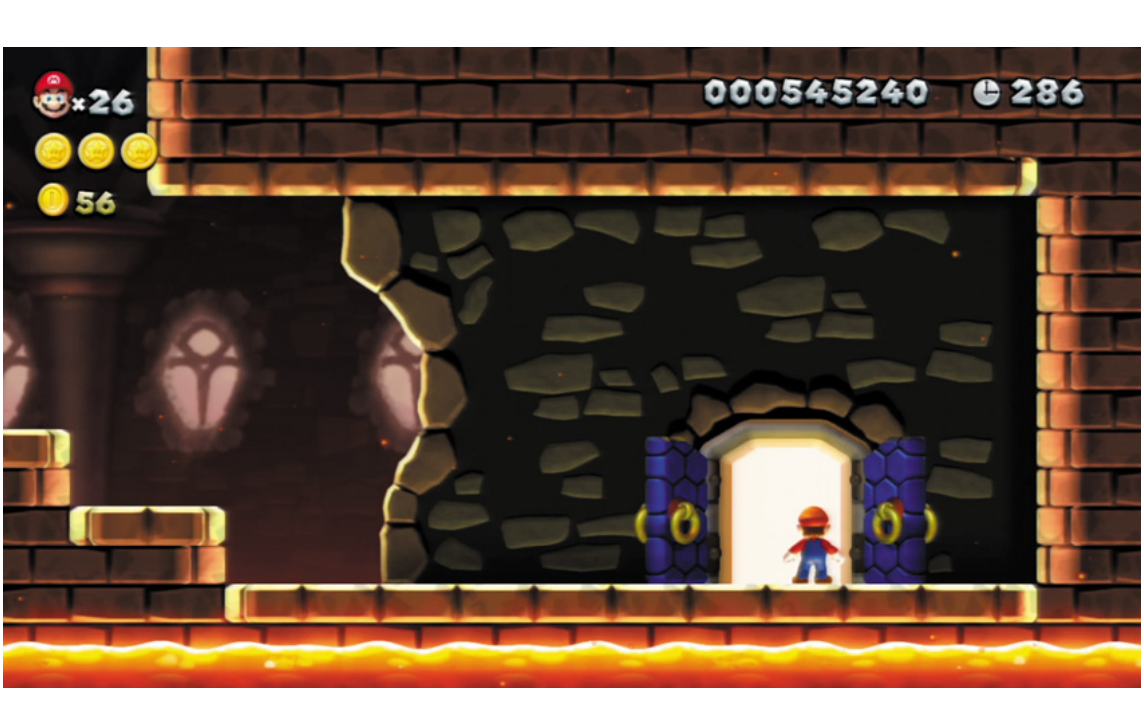


Most Story Mode zones features at least one tower that must be scaled. Just keep climbing, and when you finally reach the tower's apex, be prepared to battle a formidable mini-boss—usually a big bully named Boom Boom. Towers can be tough because you're constantly fighting against gravity, and you must clear them on your way to the zone's distant castle.

Tip

Before entering the Boss Door at the top of a tower, search nearby for a hidden Block that produces a useful Power-Up!

Castles



Every Story Mode zone ends with a creepy castle that must be overcome. Reach the end of the castle, and you'll often be drawn into a battle against one of Bowser's beloved Koopas. Every castle boss is different, but they all share one thing in common: You must stomp them three times to defeat them!

Note

Fireballs can also be used to defeat bosses. You can usually find a Fire Flower by searching for a hidden Block near the Boss Door.

Enemy Battles

Enemies aren't restricted to levels—some also roam the World Map, hungry for would-be heroes. Touching a World Map enemy draws you into a brief battle in which you must defeat the enemy, along with its fellow fiends. Simply stomp all of the baddies, or wait for a winged ? Block to appear so you can collect a vital Power-Up that allows you to defeat them. Then carry on with your adventure!

Tip

Use a Super Star when traveling the World Map, and you will instantly defeat any World Map enemies you touch! You won't receive any items for beating them in this fashion, though.

Note

If you don't open the chest after you defeat World Map enemies, Nabbit will eventually appear and steal the item away! There's no way to reclaim items stolen by Nabbit in this fashion.

Catching Nabbit

A rascally rabbit named Nabbit periodically appears on the World Map. Whenever you see Nabbit's icon hovering over a stage, head there to attempt to catch the furry fellow. Simply speed through the stage in pursuit of Nabbit, and catch the little guy to complete the challenge. Nabbit will then flee to another zone—catch Nabbit on every zone to earn a profile star!

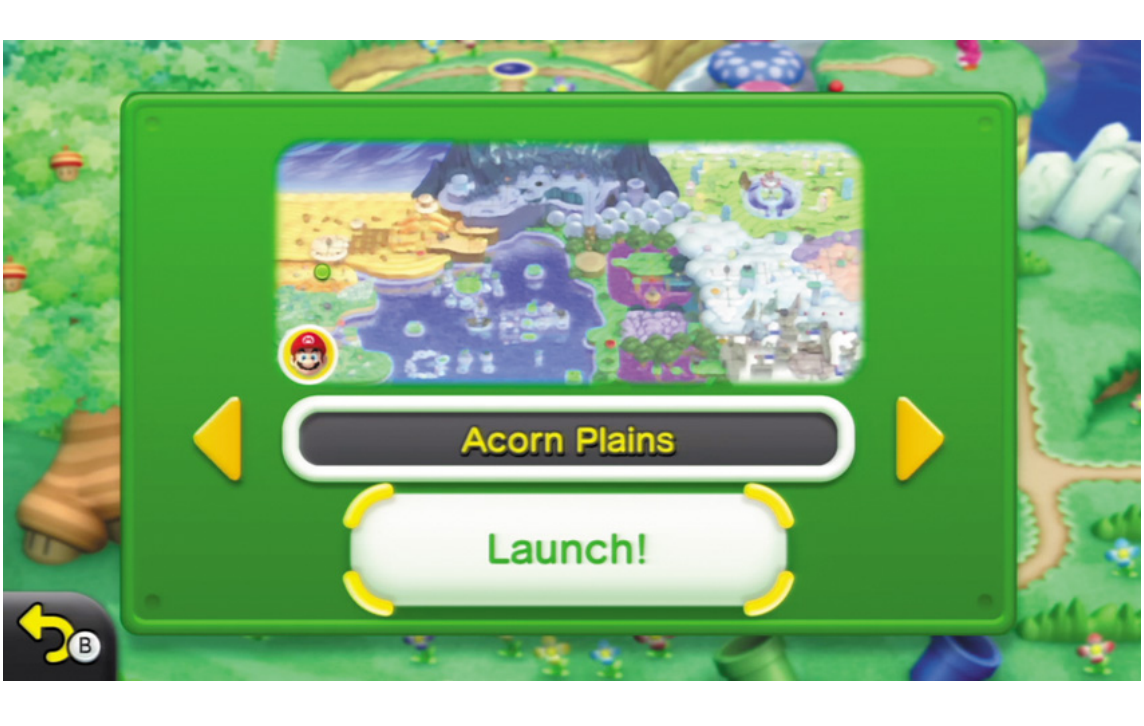
Note

Nabbit only appears in the first seven zones. If you fail to catch Nabbit after three tries, he'll flee from the World Map and eventually reappear after a while.

Tip

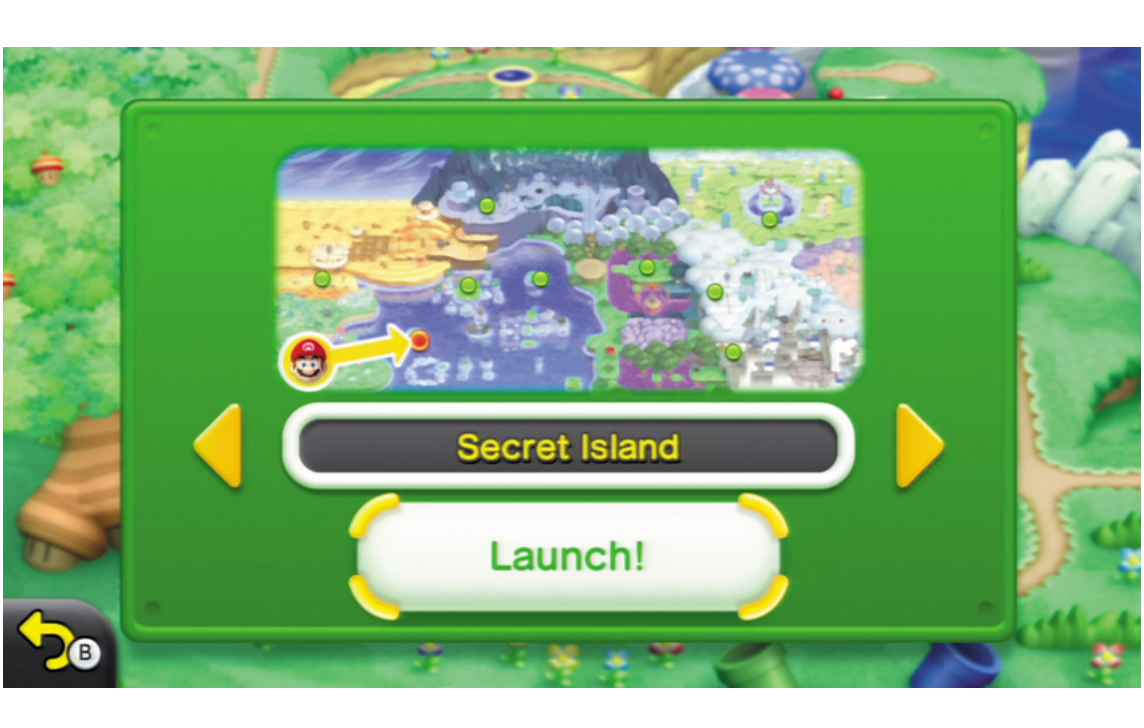
If you're having trouble catching Nabbit, use a Super Star on the World Map, then try catching him. You'll have an easier time breezing through the level with Super Star power!

Warp Pipes



After you've made a little progress in Story Mode, you'll be able to start using the World Map's Warp Pipes. Simply pop into a Warp Pipe and pick a zone to quickly travel there. Every zone has a Warp Pipe, so this is a swift way to travel the World Map!

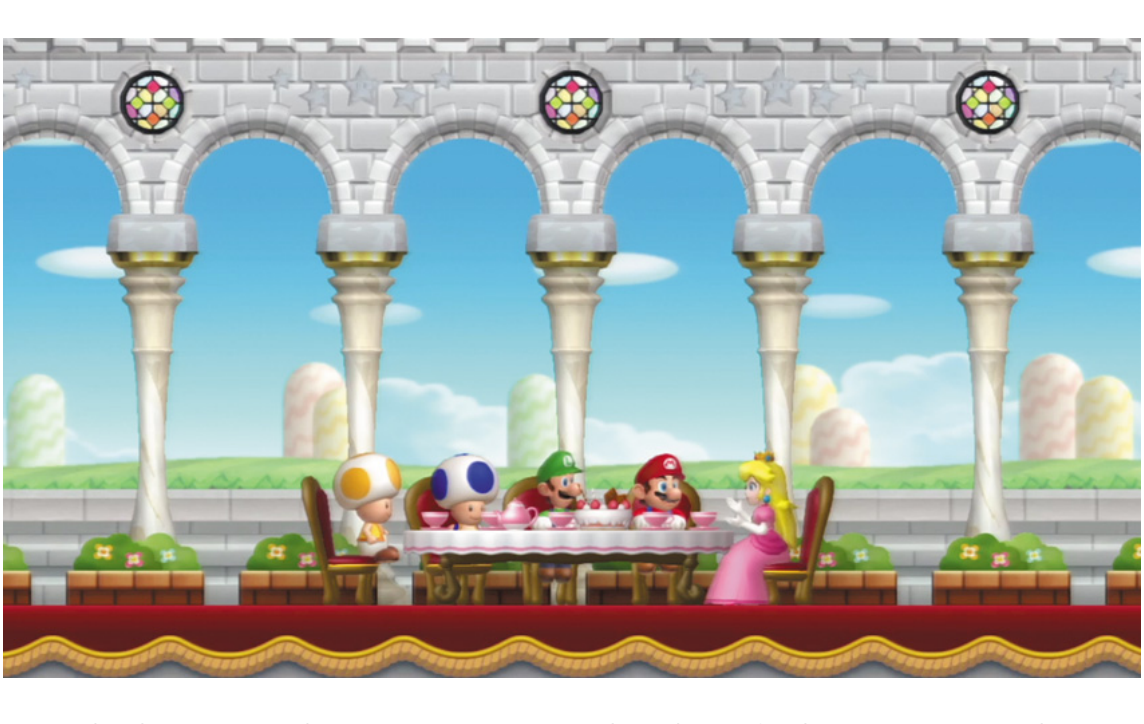
Secret Island



Beat Story Mode by clearing Peach's Castle Finale—The Final Battle, and a special island will appear on the World Map. Use a Warp Pipe to visit the island and then enter the small house you discover there. This hut looks like it belongs to Nabbit, but he isn't home right now. Still, he's kept a careful record of all of your accomplishments—read the message boards and see for yourself!

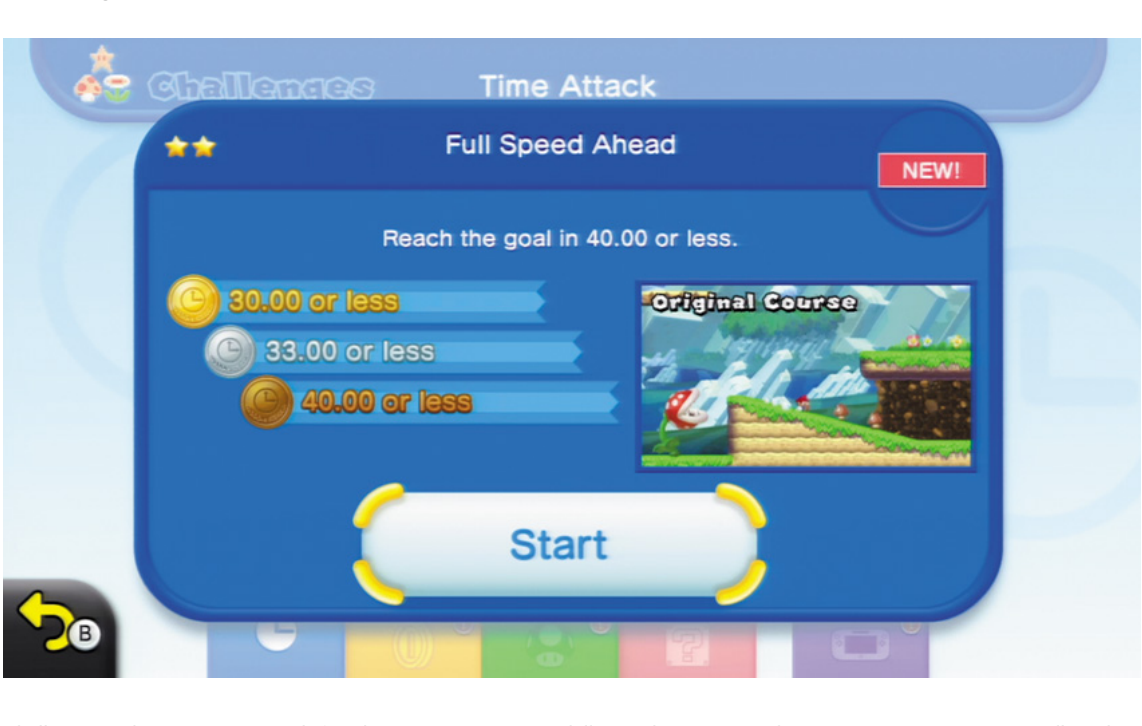
Game Modes

Story Mode



Story Mode is the main game mode in New Super Mario Bros U. In this mode, up to five players can journey across the Mushroom Kingdom, struggling to save the land from the evil clutches of Bowser. One player can even use the gamepad to assist their friends by messing with enemies and placing useful Boost Blocks!

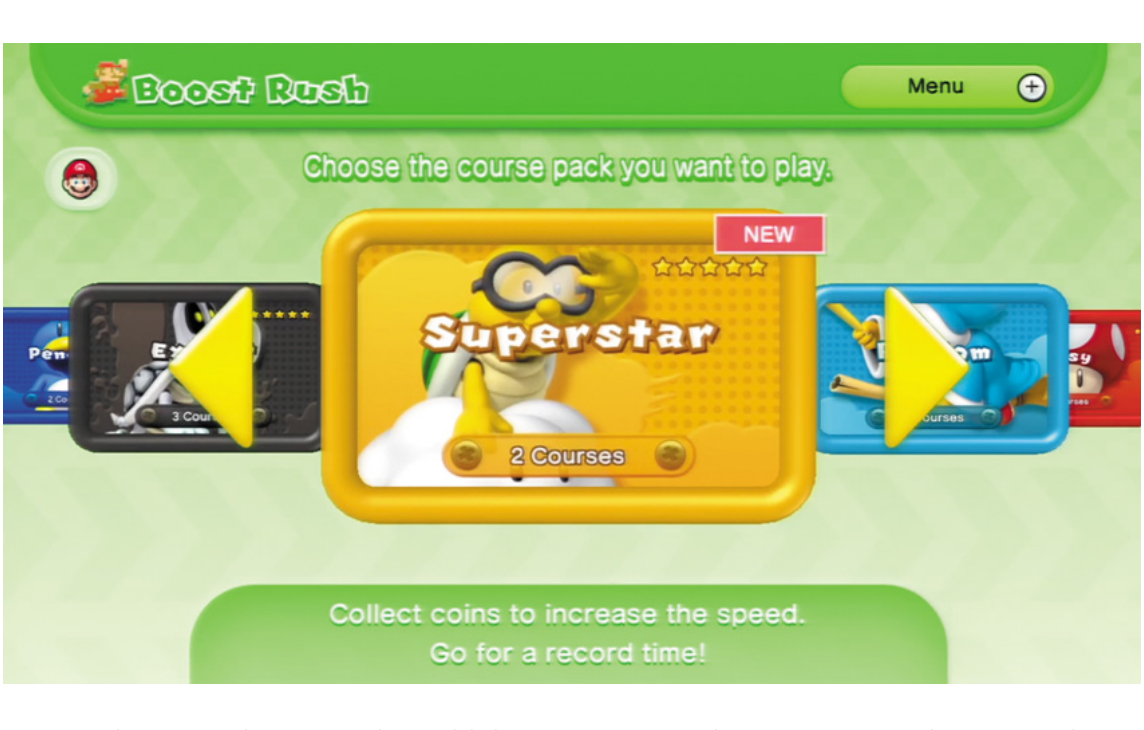
Challenges



Challenge mode presents you with five different categories of skill-stretching events. These inventive minigames are all single-player affairs, except for Boost Mode, which is designed for two players. Beat each Challenge to unlock the next—and if you get stuck, check out our tips in the "Extra Modes" section.

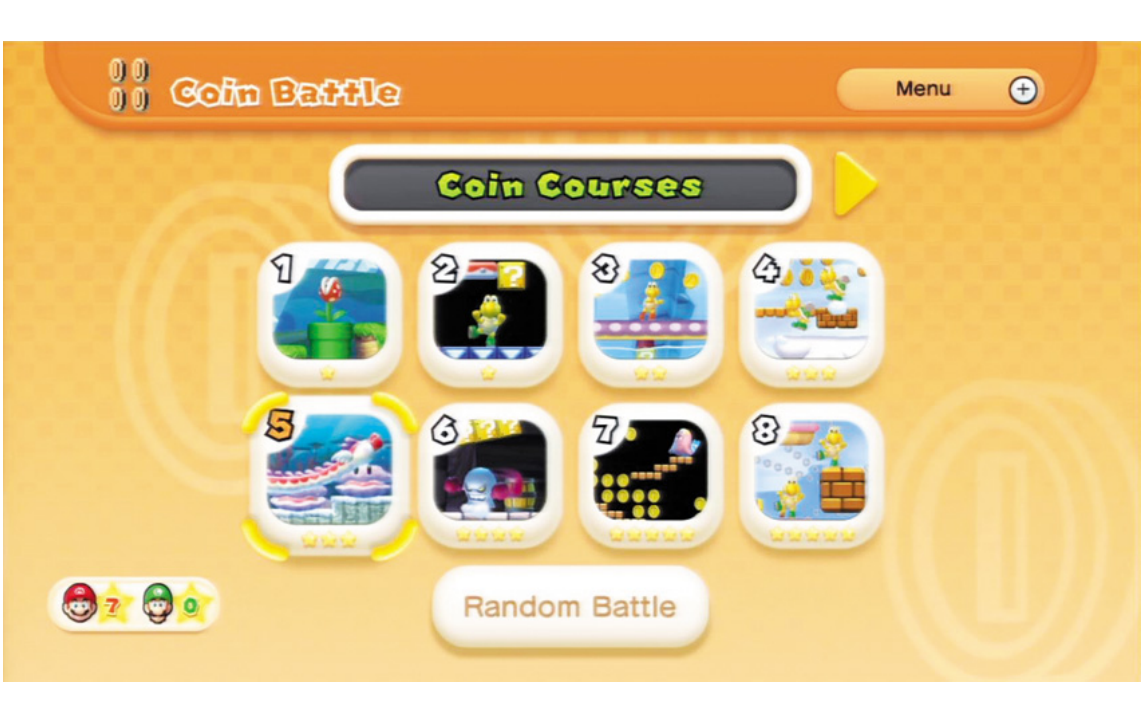
During multiplayer games, all players must use Wii Remotes. No one can use the Wii U GamePad to control a character while others use Wii Remotes.

Boost Rush


Boost Rush
Menu
Choose the course pack you want to play.
NEW
Superstar
2 Courses
Collect coins to increase the speed.
Go for a record time!

In Boost Rush, up to four players must make a mad dash for Coins across a number of unique courses. The more Coins the players collect, the faster the screen will scroll, which makes the match more and more frantic! Like Story Mode, one player may use the gamepad to stun enemies and place helpful Boost Blocks for his pals. See the "Extra Modes" section for some nifty tips that will help you maximize your Coinage!

Coin Battle



Coin Battle is a competitive multiplayer mode in which up to four players (or two teams of players) battle to collect the most Coins. Rush around these special stages and strive to snag more Coins than your rivals! Star Coins are worth big bonuses, but you'll lose Coins if you're hit or defeated. The player or team with the most Coins at the end of the event is the winner!

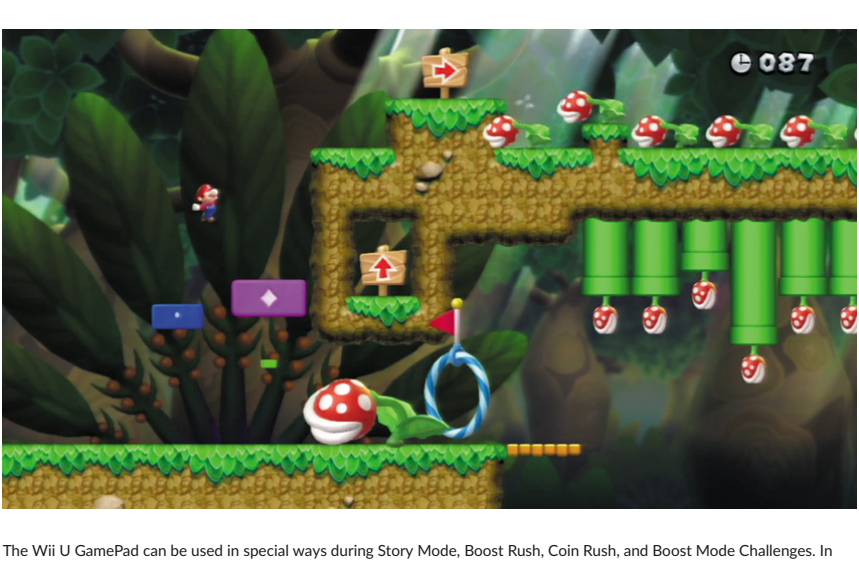
Note

You can play as any of your Mii characters during Challenges, Boost Rush, and Coin Battle games.

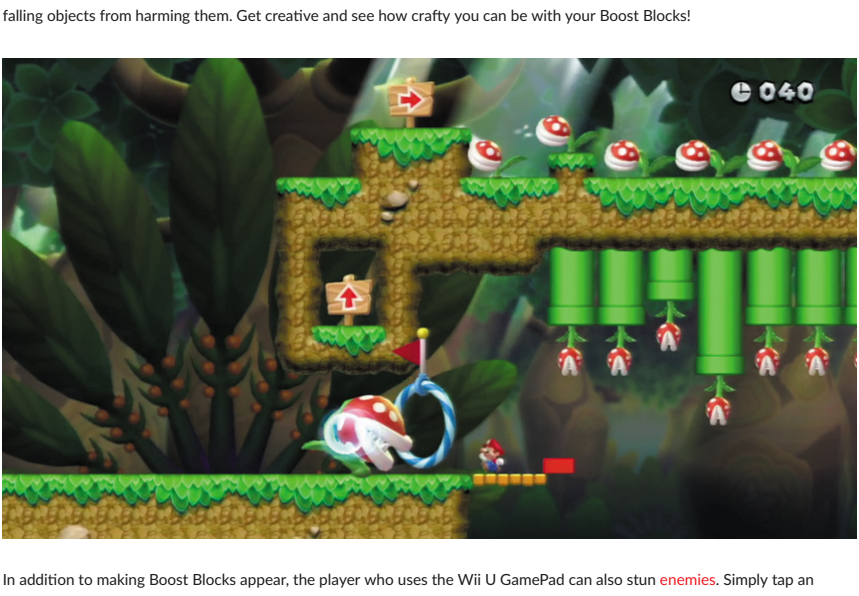
Moves and Controls

Moves and Controls

Using the Wii U GamePad



The Wii U GamePad can be used in special ways during Story Mode, Boost Rush, Coin Rush, and Boost Mode Challenges. In each of these modes, the player who uses the Wii U GamePad can place special objects called Boost Blocks in the environment. Boost Blocks are intended to serve as platforms for Mario and friends to help them move through levels with greater ease. Boost Blocks can also be used in other ways—for example, placing them over the players' heads can prevent falling objects from harming them. Get creative and see how crafty you can be with your Boost Blocks!



In addition to making Boost Blocks appear, the player who uses the Wii U GamePad can also stun enemies. Simply tap an enemy to stun it, and you'll help your buddies out. You can also stun or destroy certain environmental hazards as well, such as falling Bowser's Flames, or fireballs thrown by enemies. Try tapping everything you see—you never know what might happen!

Note

As players land on Boost Blocks, they'll steadily fill a special Super Star meter at the top of the gamepad screen. Once the Super Star meter is full, the gamepad player can tap it to gain Super Star power! Now enemies you tap will be defeated instead of stunned. The effect doesn't last long, but it's quite an advantage!

Note

When a player is using the gamepad, special Moon Blocks will appear in certain game modes. Tap these special blocks so that other players may hit them and receive 3-Up Moons!

Mario's Moves

Run

Move the analog stick right or left to make Mario run in that direction. The more pressure you apply to the analog stick, the faster Mario will move!

Note

You may also use the +Control Pad to move Mario, instead of using the analog stick.

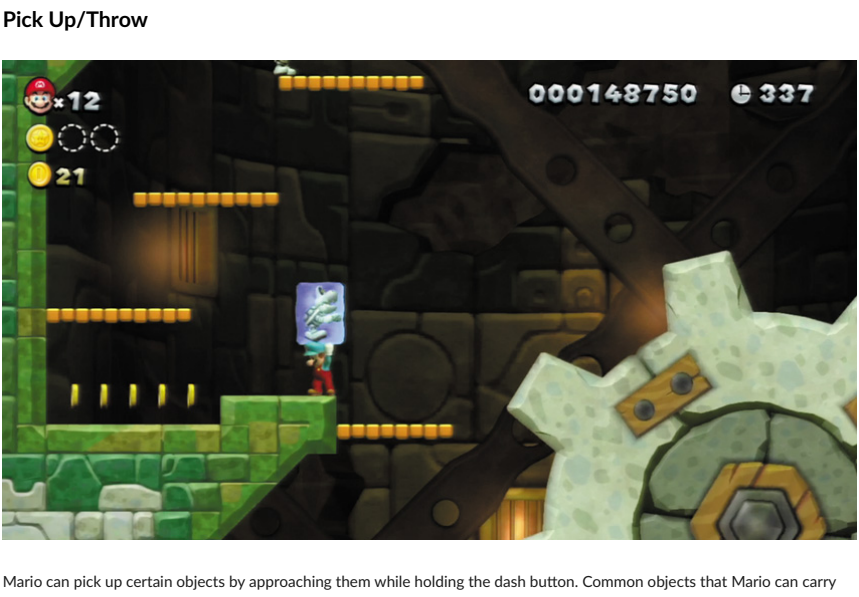
Dash

Hold the dash button while running to dash. Now you're really moving! Unless you feel the need for caution, it helps to simply hold the dash button at all times. That way, you'll always be moving at top speed!

Note

Mario can dash straight over small gaps and pits without falling into them. Zoom!

Pick Up/Throw



Mario can pick up certain objects by approaching them while holding the dash button. Common objects that Mario can carry include Koopa shells, POW Blocks, Baby Yoshis, Trampolines, stunned Bob-ombs, and smaller enemies that Ice Mario has frozen with his iceballs. Simply hold the dash button to pick up and carry the object around, and release the dash button to throw it.

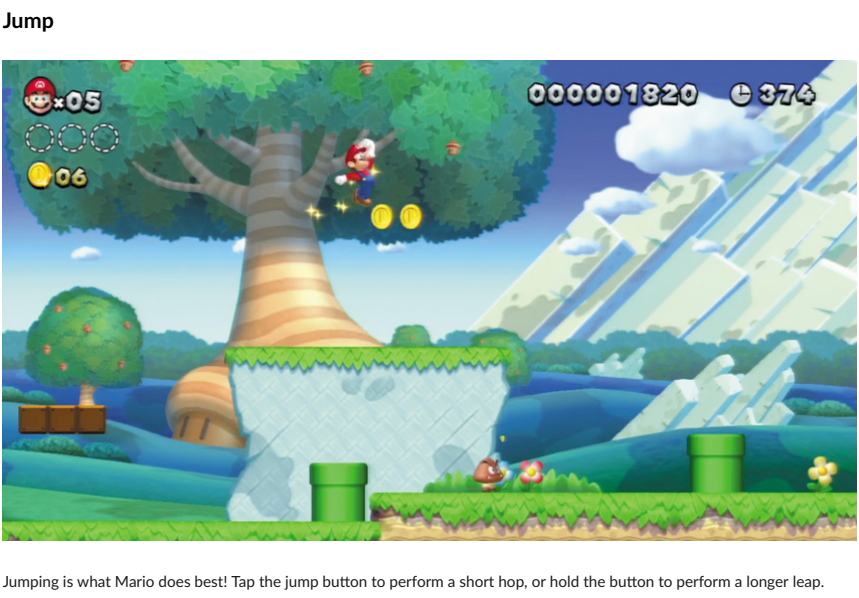
Tip

Throw Koopa shells and frozen enemies at other foes to easily defeat them! Frozen enemies never recover after Mario picks them up, but Koopas will eventually emerge from their shells, so don't hang on to them too long!

Note

When picking up frozen enemies, you must press the ZR Button (or shake the Wii Remote) along with pressing the dash button.

Jump



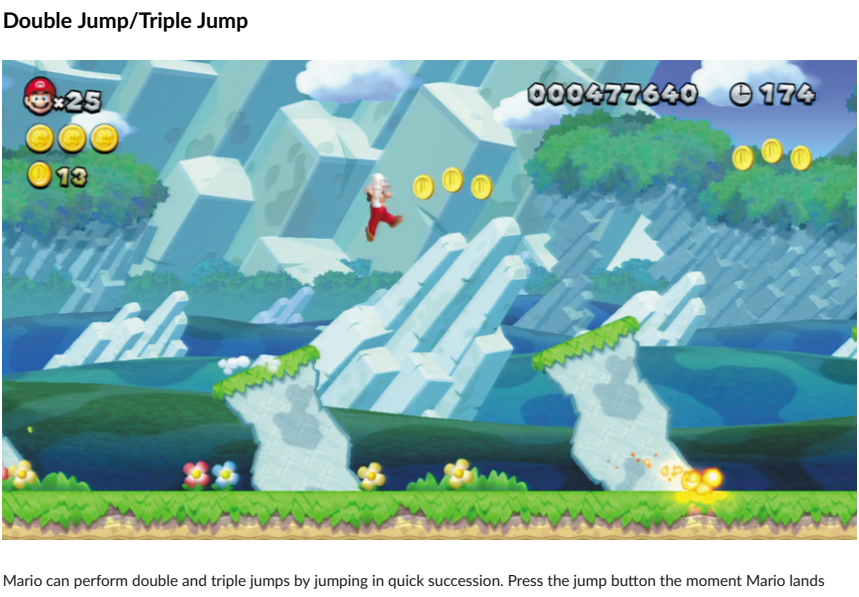
Jumping is what Mario does best! Tap the jump button to perform a short hop, or hold the button to perform a longer leap. Dash before jumping to build up momentum and leap for longer distances!

Jump while standing beneath Blocks to bump them—something good might pop out! Mario can also smash certain Brick Blocks by jumping up and hitting them from below, but only after he has grown in size by collecting a Power-Up, such as a Super Mushroom or Fire Flower.

Tip

Bump Blocks from below to stun or defeat enemies that are standing on them.

Double Jump/Triple Jump



Mario can perform double and triple jumps by jumping in quick succession. Press the jump button the moment Mario lands from a jump to perform a double jump. Press the jump button again after Mario lands from a double jump to perform a triple jump! These jumps are longer than normal jumps, and can help Mario cover more ground.

Spin Jump

While Mario's feet are on the ground, press the ZR Button (or shake the Wii Remote) to perform a spin jump. This type of jump has a lower arc than a normal jump, and can be useful in certain situations, such as when you're trying to avoid bumping into overhead obstacles. For the most part, though, traditional jumps are the best way to go.

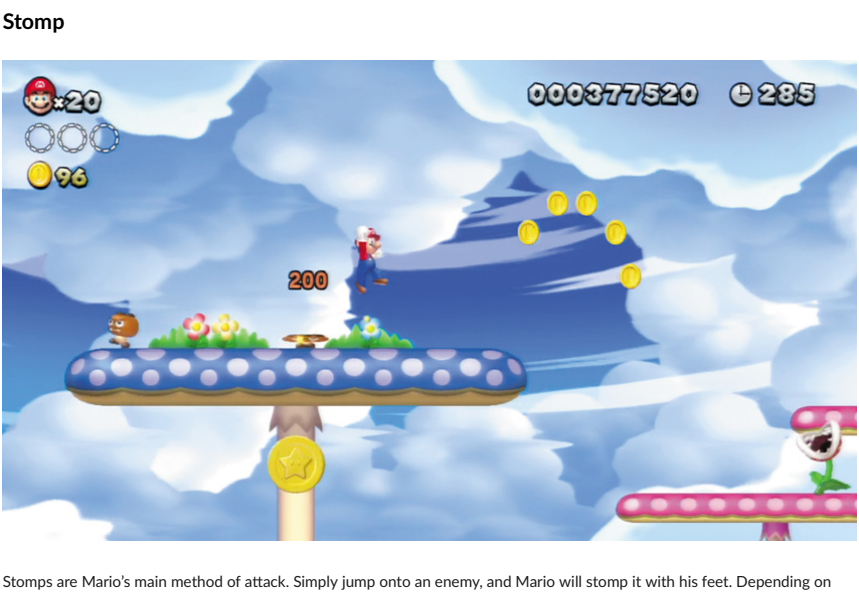
Tip

Press the ZR Button (or shake the Wii Remote) after a normal jump to make Mario spin in midair. Midair spins add a little extra distance and hang time to Mario's jumps—this can be a real lifesaver when you're about to fall short of a platform or land on something harmful!

Wall Jump

Jump into a wall, then press the jump button again to wall jump off it. Wall jumps are great for reaching high areas, so keep an eye out for places where they can be used. When two walls are close to each other, Mario can wall jump back and forth between them, leaping up to incredible heights!

Stomp

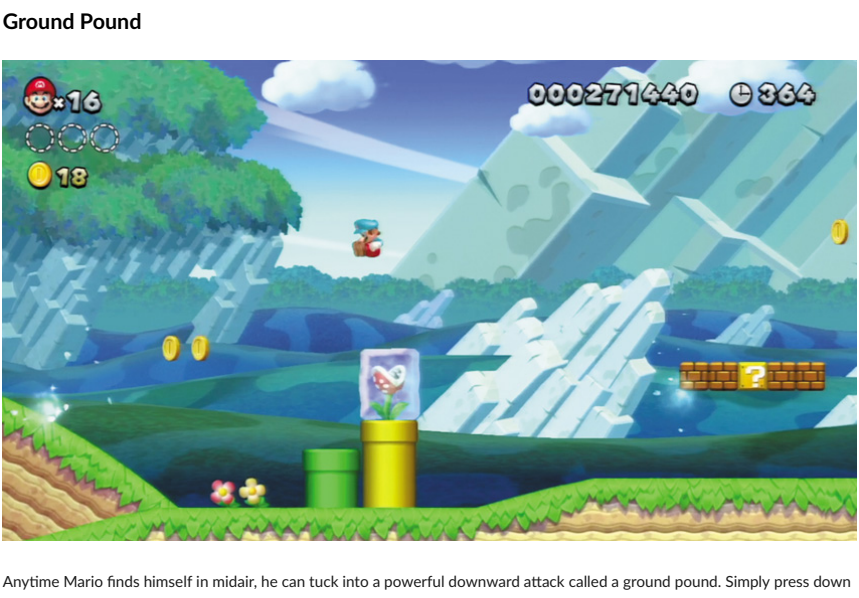


Stomps are Mario's main method of attack. Simply jump onto an enemy, and Mario will stomp it with his feet. Depending on the enemy, a stomp might either stun it or defeat it. Not all enemies can be stomped, mind you—fiery and spike-covered foes will often harm Mario if he tries to stomp them!

Tip

Hold the jump button to make Mario bounce off enemies after he stomps them. This is a great way to bound up to high Blocks and platforms!

Ground Pound

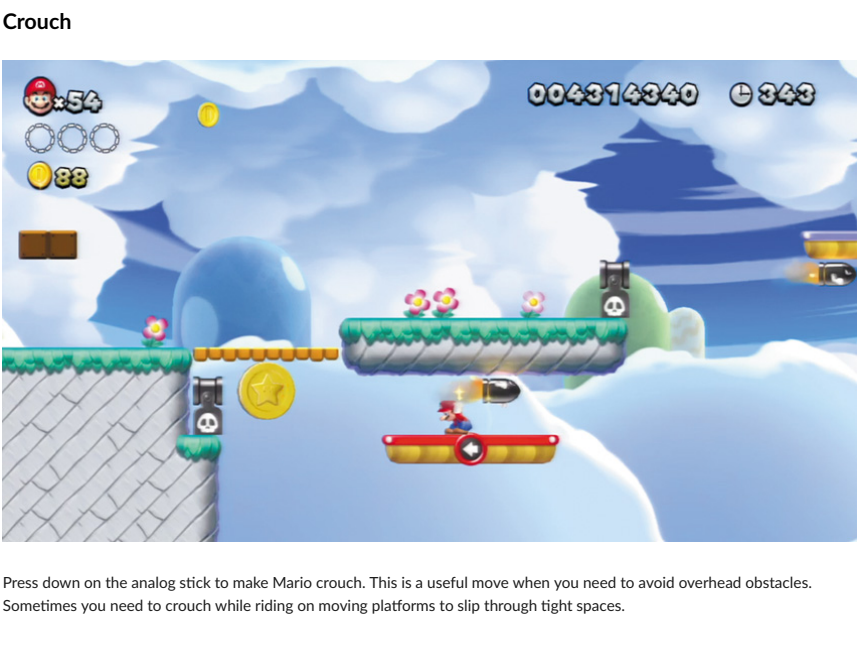


Anytime Mario finds himself in midair, he can tuck into a powerful downward attack called a ground pound. Simply press down on the analog stick while Mario is airborne, and the plumber will plummet downward at high speed, rump first. Mario can defeat enemies with ground pounds just the same as he can with stomps. After Mario has collected a Power-Up and grown in size, his ground pounds gain the extra oomph needed to smash through certain types of Blocks.

Tip

Ground pound ? Blocks to knock loose their contents—this is sometimes safer and easier than jumping up and bumping the ? Blocks from below.

Crouch

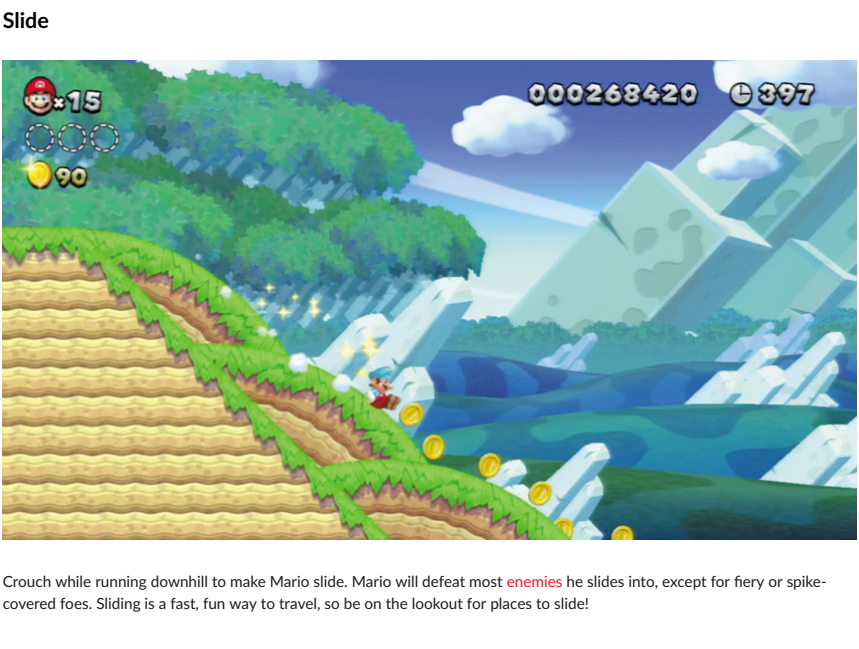


Press down on the analog stick to make Mario crouch. This is a useful move when you need to avoid overhead obstacles. Sometimes you need to crouch while riding on moving platforms to slip through tight spaces.

Tip

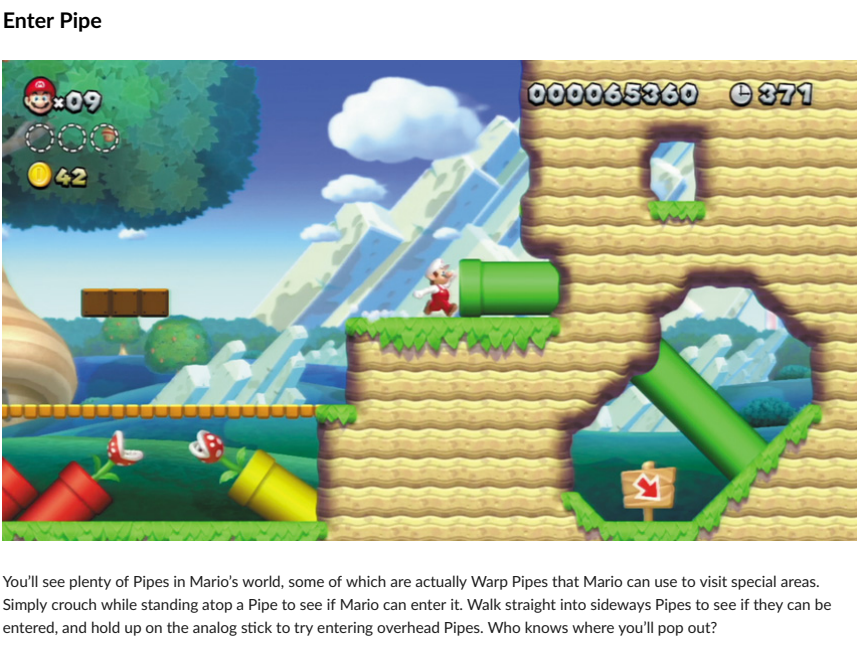
Crouch while dashing to make Mario pass through low openings in walls.

Slide



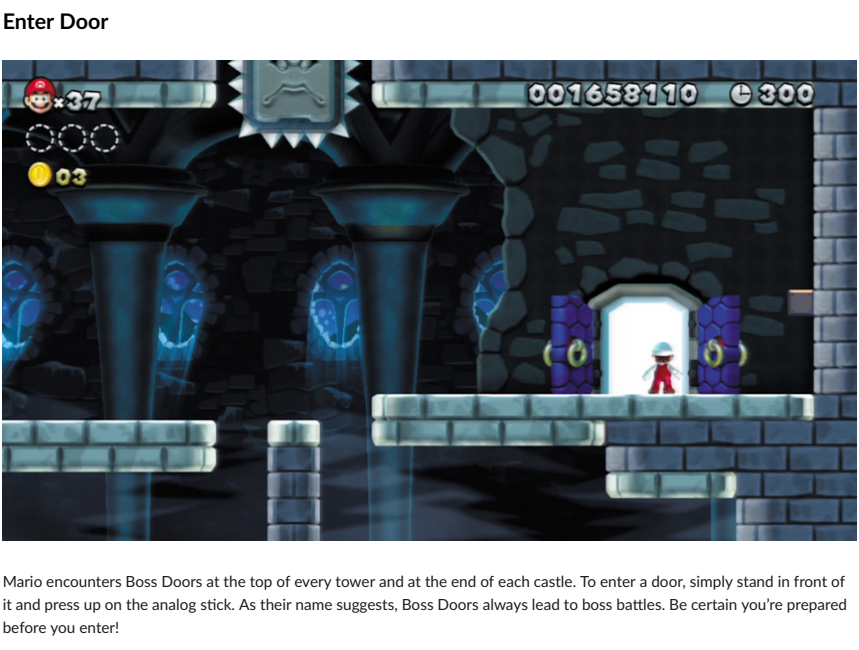
Crouch while running downhill to make Mario slide. Mario will defeat most enemies he slides into, except for fiery or spike-covered foes. Sliding is a fast, fun way to travel, so be on the lookout for places to slide!

Enter Pipe



You'll see plenty of Pipes in Mario's world, some of which are actually Warp Pipes that Mario can use to visit special areas. Simply crouch while standing atop a Pipe to see if Mario can enter it. Walk straight into sideways Pipes to see if they can be entered, and hold up on the analog stick to try entering overhead Pipes. Who knows where you'll pop out?

Enter Door

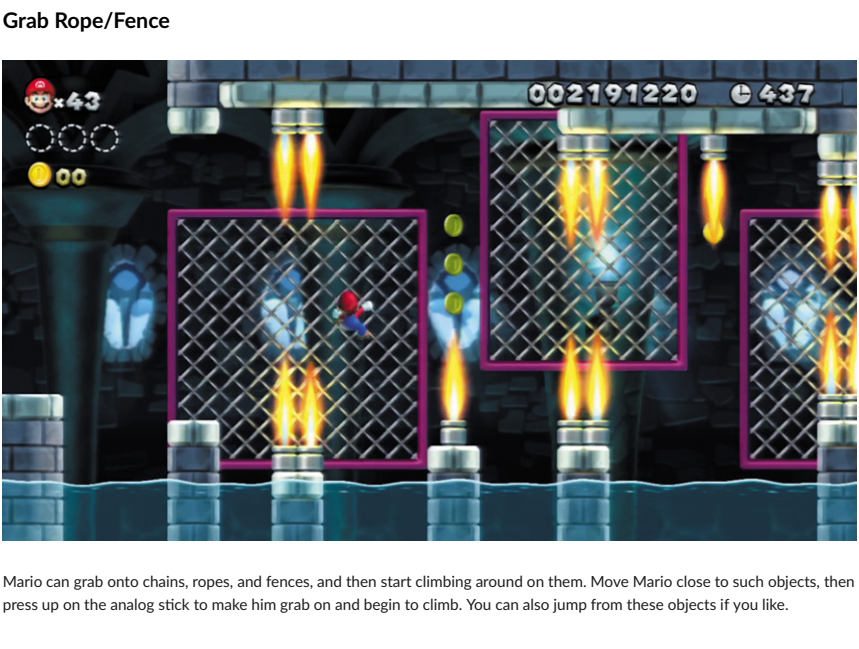


Mario encounters Boss Doors at the top of every tower and at the end of each castle. To enter a door, simply stand in front of it and press up on the analog stick. As their name suggests, Boss Doors always lead to boss battles. Be certain you're prepared before you enter!

Tip

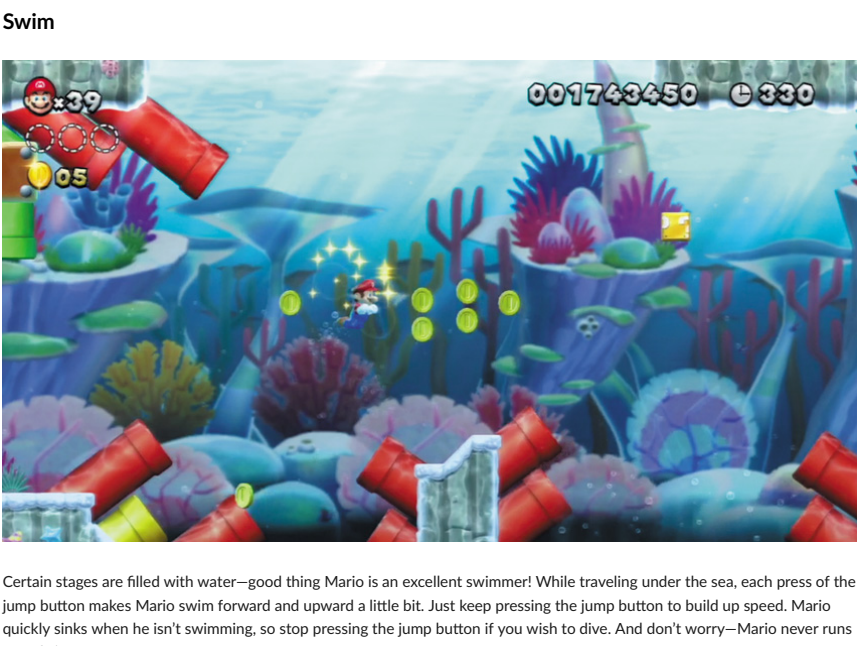
Check for hidden Blocks near Boss Doors—there's usually one nearby, and it always contains a useful Power-Up!

Grab Rope/Fence



Mario can grab onto chains, ropes, and fences, and then start climbing around on them. Move Mario close to such objects, then press up on the analog stick to make him grab on and begin to climb. You can also jump from these objects if you like.

Swim

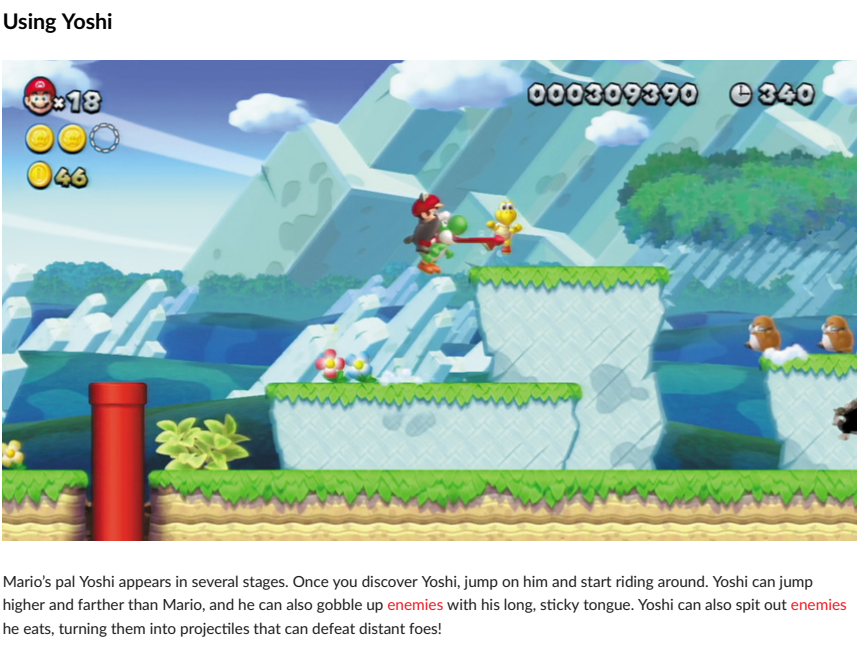


Certain stages are filled with water—good thing Mario is an excellent swimmer! While traveling under the sea, each press of the jump button makes Mario swim forward and upward a little bit. Just keep pressing the jump button to build up speed. Mario quickly sinks when he isn't swimming, so stop pressing the jump button if you wish to dive. And don't worry—Mario never runs out of air!

Tip

Hold the jump button while swimming, and Mario will perform a flutter kick that causes him to dive more slowly, giving you a little more control.

Using Yoshi



Mario's pal Yoshi appears in several stages. Once you discover Yoshi, jump on him and start riding around. Yoshi can jump higher and farther than Mario, and he can also gobble up enemies with his long, sticky tongue. Yoshi can also spit out enemies he eats, turning them into projectiles that can defeat distant foes!

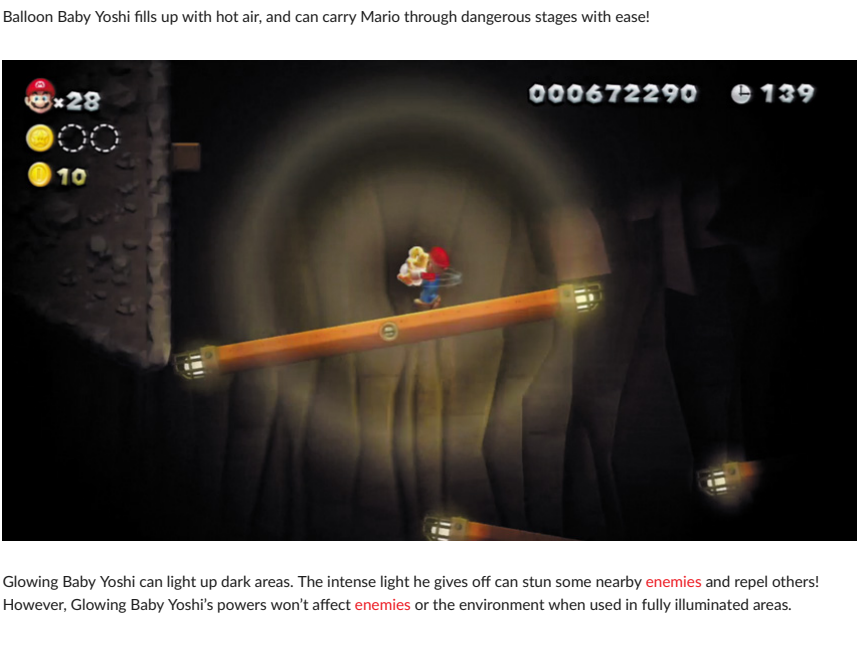
Tip

Yoshi loves fruit—feed him five pieces, and he'll give you a Power-Up! Small and Mini Mario get Super Mushrooms, while Super Mario receives a Fire Flower. Fire Mario gets an Ice Flower, and Ice Mario gets a Super Acorn. Every other form Mario takes will receive a 1-Up Mushroom. What a pal Yoshi is!

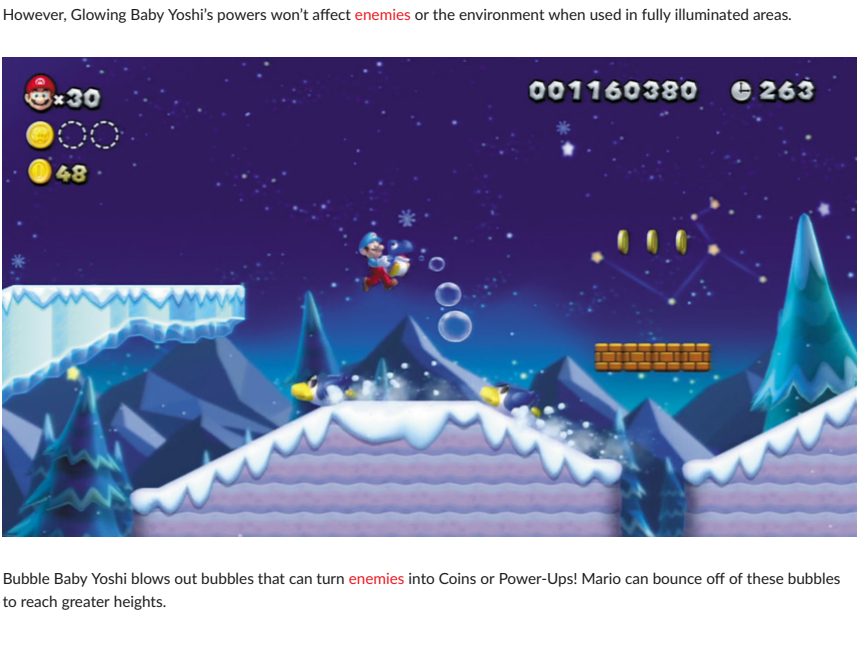
Baby Yoshis

Baby Yoshis come in three flavors: Balloon Baby Yoshi, Glowing Baby Yoshi, and Bubble Baby Yoshi. Each Baby Yoshi has unique abilities, but they all share a few similar traits. For starters, Mario must pick up a Baby Yoshi before he can use him. Also, Baby Yoshis will gobble up any enemies that Mario walks into while he is carrying them! Not every enemy can be eaten, mind you, but many can. Press the ZR Button while carrying a Baby Yoshi to use his special ability.

Balloon Baby Yoshi fills up with hot air, and can carry Mario through dangerous stages with ease!



Glowing Baby Yoshi can light up dark areas. The intense light he gives off can stun some nearby enemies and repel others! However, Glowing Baby Yoshi's powers won't affect enemies or the environment when used in fully illuminated areas.



Bubble Baby Yoshi blows out bubbles that can turn enemies into Coins or Power-Ups! Mario can bounce off of these bubbles to reach greater heights.

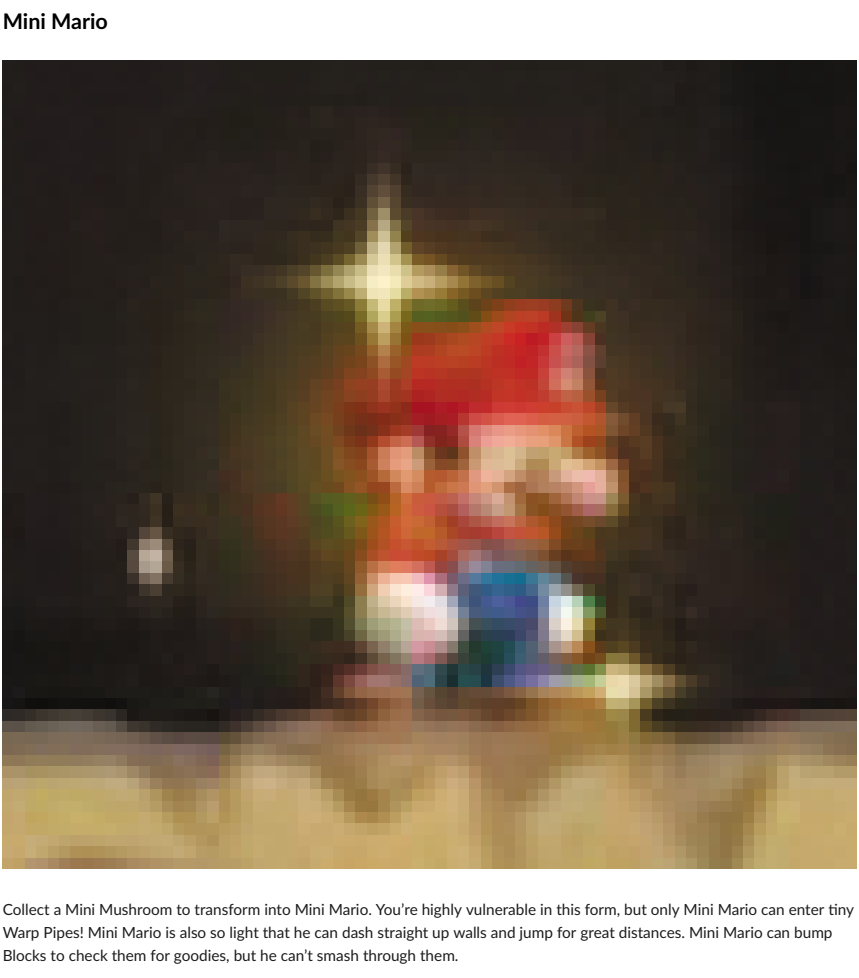
Note

Speak with a Baby Yoshi when you see one on the World Map, and it will follow you into the next stage. The only stages that Baby Yoshis won't dare to enter are towers, castles, and Boo Houses.

Tip

Bring any Baby Yoshi into underwater stages—they make great swimming companions!

Mini Mario



Collect a Mini Mushroom to transform into Mini Mario. You're highly vulnerable in this form, but only Mini Mario can enter tiny Warp Pipes! Mini Mario is also so light that he can dash straight up walls and jump for great distances. Mini Mario can bump Blocks to check them for goodies, but he can't smash through them.

Small Mario

This is Mario's default form. Small Mario is highly vulnerable, and he can't smash Brick Blocks. Look around for Power-Ups and transform him quick!

Note

When Small Mario activates a Checkpoint Flag, he's automatically transformed into Super Mario. Nice!

Note

Many ? Blocks that provide Power-Ups will give you a Super Mushroom when you hit them with Small or Mini Mario. When you hit the same ? Block in any other form, it will instead give its default Power-Up (usually a Fire Flower, Ice Flower, or Super Acorn). In short, you must often transform from Small Mario to Super Mario before you may obtain an even more powerful form. Some ? Blocks will give Coins instead of Power-Ups when Super Mario bumps them.

Super Mario

Collect a Super Mushroom to transform into Super Mario. In this form, Mario can smash through certain Brick Blocks by hitting them from below with a jump or landing on them with a ground pound from above. Mario is less vulnerable in this form because he won't be defeated if he's hit—he'll be reduced to Small Mario instead.

Fire Mario

Grab a Fire Flower to transform into Fire Mario. Now you can throw powerful fireballs by pressing the dash button! These fireballs will bounce along the ground until they hit something, which allows Fire Mario to defeat enemies from afar. This includes enemies that can't be defeated with stomps, such as Piranha Plants. As you can see, Fire Mario is quite a powerful form!

Ice Mario

Ice Flowers transform Mario into Ice Mario. This form is similar to Fire Mario, except that Ice Mario throws iceballs instead of fireballs. These projectiles vanish shortly after bouncing, so they have a shorter range than fireballs—however, iceballs are far more versatile because they can freeze Mario's enemies solid! Once an enemy has been frozen, Mario can usually pick it up, carry it around, and then toss it to defeat other foes. Larger frozen enemies that can't be carried can still be defeated by smashing them with a ground pound (or by jumping into them from below). Frozen enemies can also be used as platforms, helping Mario reach high areas or traverse dangerous passages more easily. Enemies that can't be defeated with fireballs can sometimes be defeated by Ice Mario when he freezes and smashes them (Dry Bones, for example).

Tip

Freeze and throw Ice Mario's foes to collect out-of-reach goodies with greater ease!

Flying Squirrel Mario

Mario can glide through the air in this excellent form, covering great distances with ease. Grab a Super Acorn to become Flying Squirrel Mario, then simply hold the jump button to glide. Press the ZR Button (or shake the Wii Remote) to perform a flying squirrel jump, and Mario will soar up into the sky! Mario loses the ability to glide after performing a flying squirrel jump, however, and only one flying squirrel jump can be used before Mario must land.

Tip

If possible, preserve your glide by bouncing off enemies—you'll then be able to perform another flying squirrel jump!

Note

Flying Squirrel Mario can also cling to walls for a brief time.

Power Squirrel Mario

Consume a P-Acorn to transform into Power Squirrel Mario. This form is exactly like Mario's Flying Squirrel form, except that Power Squirrel Mario can perform unlimited flying squirrel jumps in midair, and never loses the ability to glide! This allows Power Squirrel Mario to fly wherever he wants, for as long as he wants. How cool is that?

Note

P-Acorns are very rare, and can be acquired only by catching Nabbit. See the previous chapter's "Catching Nabbit" section for details.

Tip

Some levels with entry Warp Pipes can be easily beaten by Power Squirrel Mario. Instead of entering the Warp Pipe, fly up high right from the start. Then just keep flying to the right, and you'll skip straight to the finish!

Penguin Mario

Don the Penguin Suit to transform into Penguin Mario. In this rare form, Mario has the ability to throw iceballs, and can also slide on his belly for far greater distances than he could normally slide. Penguin Mario is also a fantastic swimmer—he can swim faster than normal and travels in a straight line the whole time. In short, Penguin Mario is ideal for icy and watery stages—but the Penguin Suit is a rare Power-Up that can only be acquired from Toad when you visit Superstar Road!

Propeller Mario

Slip into the Propeller Suit to transform into Propeller Mario. This form allows Mario to fly upward with a spin of his propeller and quickly gain plenty of height. Propeller Mario can also dive straight down with a drill-like spin that can destroy Brick Blocks and defeat enemies. The Propeller Suit is another rare Power-Up that can only be obtained by visiting Toad at Superstar Road.

Items and Objects

Power-Ups

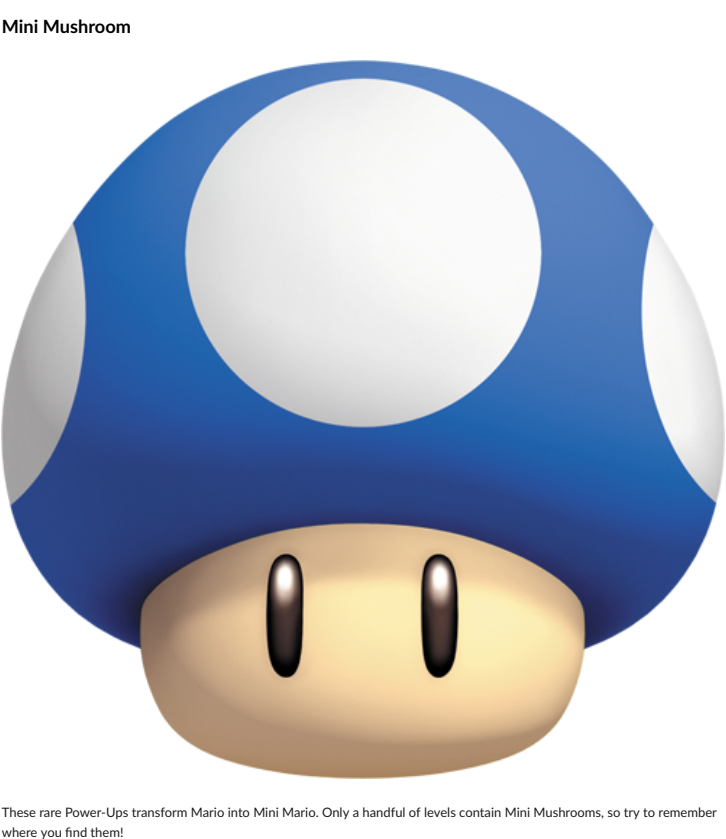
Super Mushroom

Super Mushrooms transform Small Mario into Super Mario. Small Mario often finds these Power-Ups inside of ? Blocks. However, if Super Mario were to hit the same ? Block, a more advanced Power-Up would likely pop out. That's just how it goes!

Note

See the previous chapter's "Transformations" sections for an in-depth look at each of Mario's different forms.

Mini Mushroom

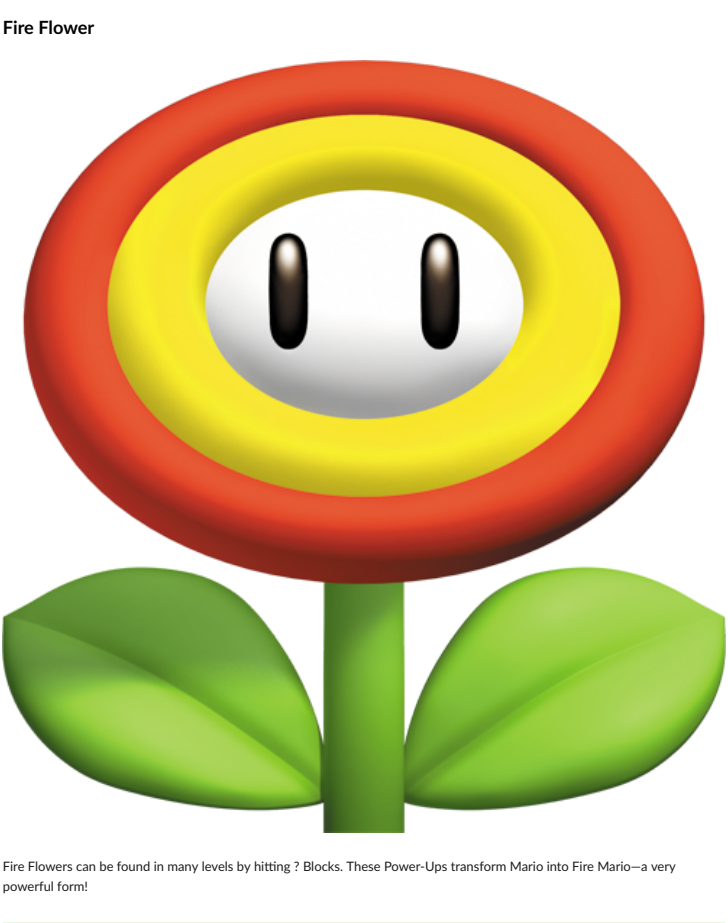


These rare Power-Ups transform Mario into Mini Mario. Only a handful of levels contain Mini Mushrooms, so try to remember where you find them!

Tip

Layer-Cake Desert 4—Spikes Spouting Sands is one Mini Mushroom source—you'll find the Mini Mushroom in a secret underground area beyond a Warp Pipe.

Fire Flower

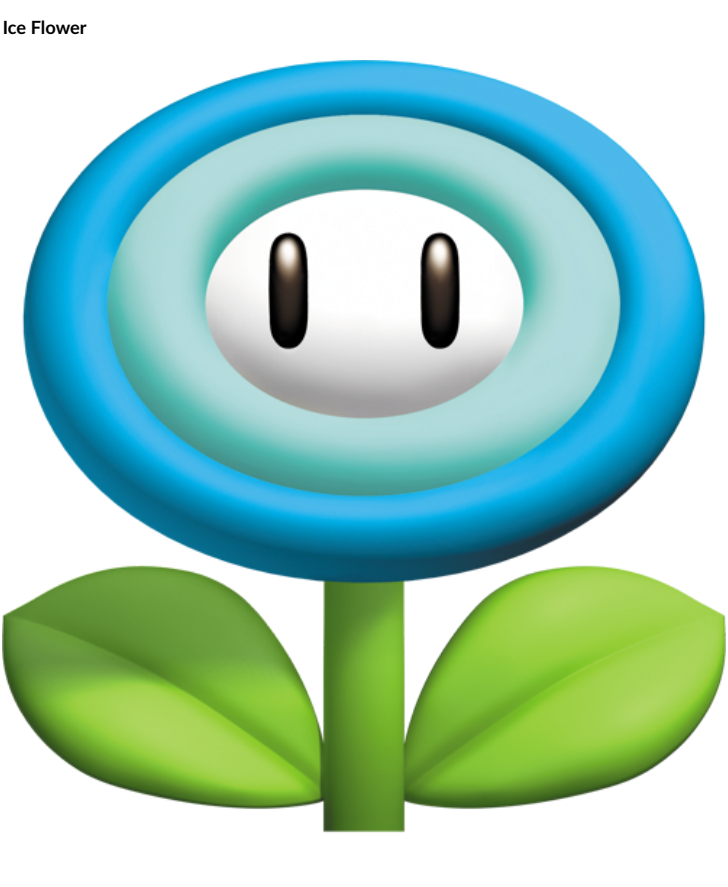


Fire Flowers can be found in many levels by hitting ? Blocks. These Power-Ups transform Mario into Fire Mario—a very powerful form!

Tip

Hidden Blocks near Boss Doors often contain Fire Flowers. Collect these to become Fire Mario before entering the Boss Door, and then you can burn the boss with fireballs!

Ice Flower



In some levels, ? Blocks will give you Ice Flowers. Collect these Power-Ups to transform into Ice Mario—a versatile form that allows Mario to freeze his enemies solid with iceballs!

Super Acorn

These magical Acorns transform Mario into Flying Squirrel form—one of the most useful forms in the game. Flying Squirrel Mario can cling to walls, glide through the air, and soar up high with his flying squirrel jumps. There's no better way to travel!

P-Acorn

These rare Power-Ups can only be obtained by catching Nabbit during special events. (See "The Basics" chapter's "Catching Nabbit" section for details.) P-Acorns transform Mario into Power Squirrel form, which allows him to remain airborne indefinitely by performing unlimited flying squirrel jumps. Up, up, and away!

Penguin Suit

The Penguin Suit is a rare Power-Up that can be found only by visiting red-roofed Toad Houses along Superstar Road. Slip one on to transform into Penguin Mario—an iceball-tossing, belly-flopping, underwater ace!

Propeller Suit

Like the Penguin Suit, the Propeller Suit can be obtained only by winning Toad's minigames on Superstar Road. Don this suit to transform into Propeller Mario. You'll then be able to zip through stages with astounding upward mobility!

Super Star

Super Stars are uncommon Power-Ups that temporarily grant Mario incredible power. Mario is largely invincible while enjoying the benefits of a Super Star, and will defeat any enemy he touches, including powerful enemies like the Dragoneel.

Caution

Even after finding a Super Star, Mario must still beware of falling, being squashed, and taking a dip into lava (or the Soda Jungle's Poison Bog).

Note

In some levels, you can find bonus Super Stars by hitting other ? Blocks before Mario's Star power fades. Speed through these stages and hit those ? Blocks to keep your Super Star power going strong!

Tip

Mario will earn a Super Star each time he defeats World Map enemies. But if you don't feel like battling World Map enemies, just use a Super Star while exploring the World Map, and you'll instantly defeat any enemies you encounter!

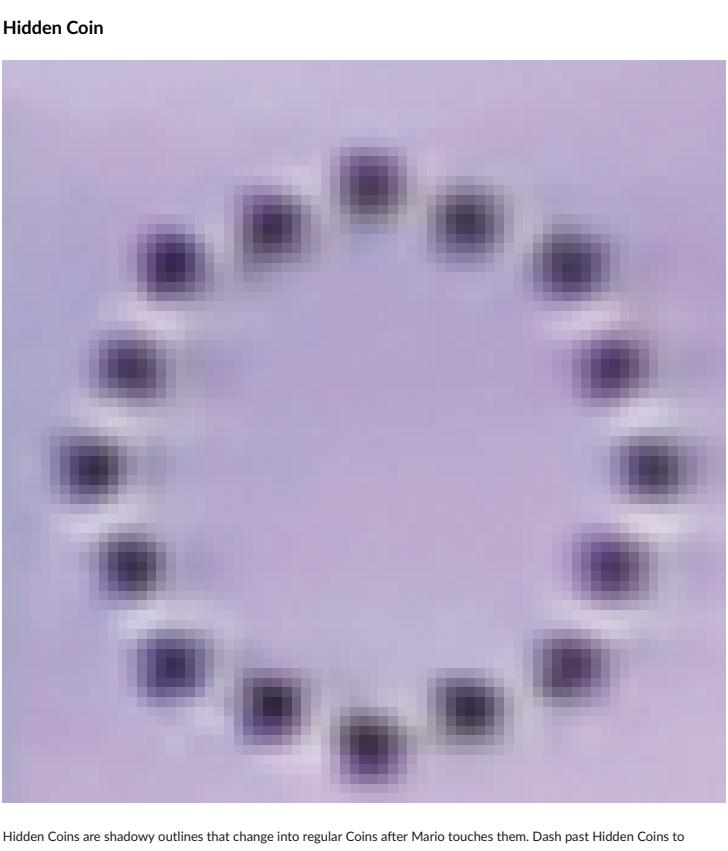
Coin

Coins are the most common of all items—you'll find them everywhere. Collect 100 Coins to score a 1-Up!

Tip

Coin formations often point toward important places or hidden secrets. Follow those Coins and see where they lead!

Hidden Coin



Hidden Coins are shadowy outlines that change into regular Coins after Mario touches them. Dash past Hidden Coins to expose them, then turn around and grab 'em!

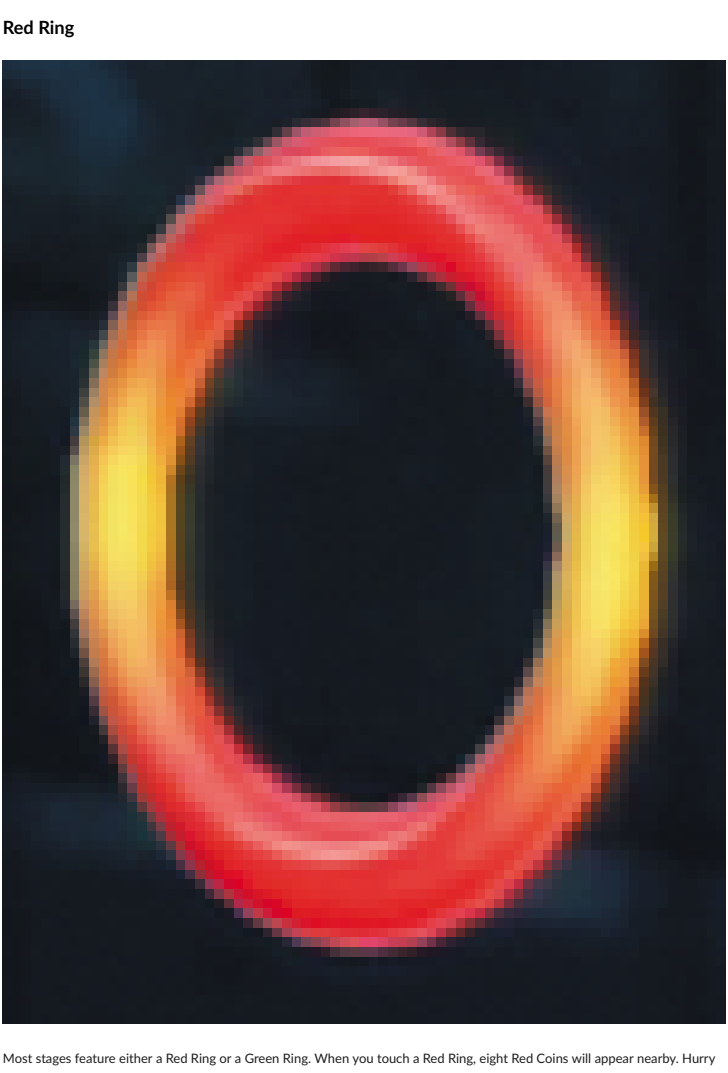
Star Coin

Every stage has three Star Coins for you to collect. These tantalizing prizes are usually cleverly hidden, so search high and low for them!

Tip

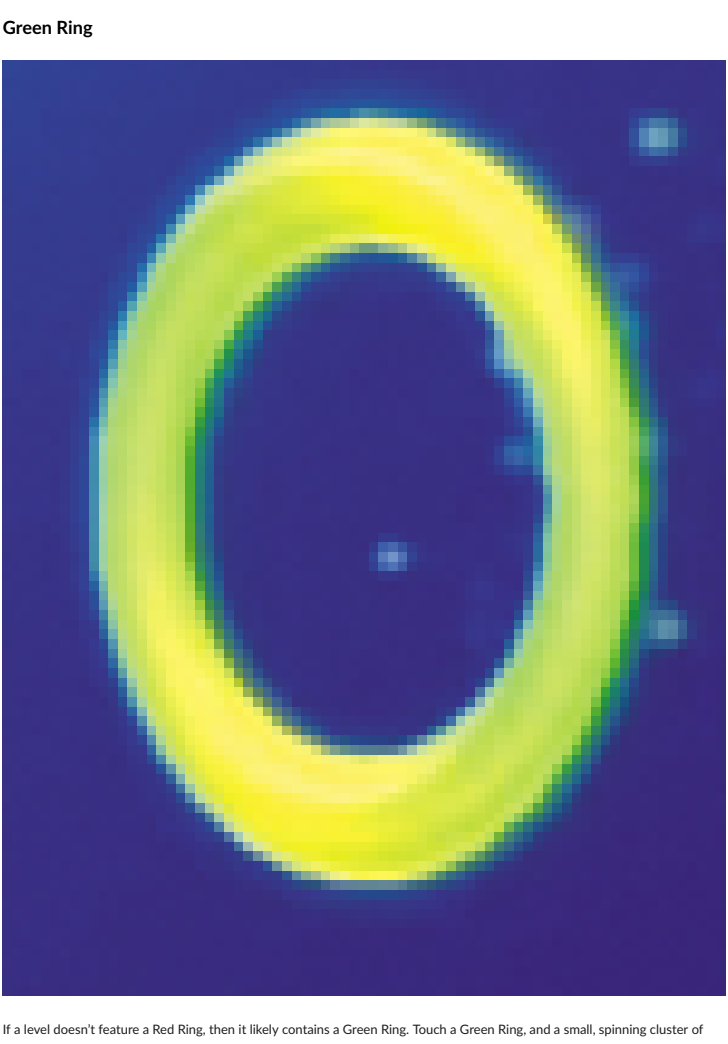
When you collect a Star Coin, its icon appears at the upper-right corner of your screen. This can help you narrow your search for missing Star Coins. For example, if the first Star Coin you've found turns out to be the second one, you know that you must have passed by the first Star Coin. Backtrack a bit and search for it!

Red Ring



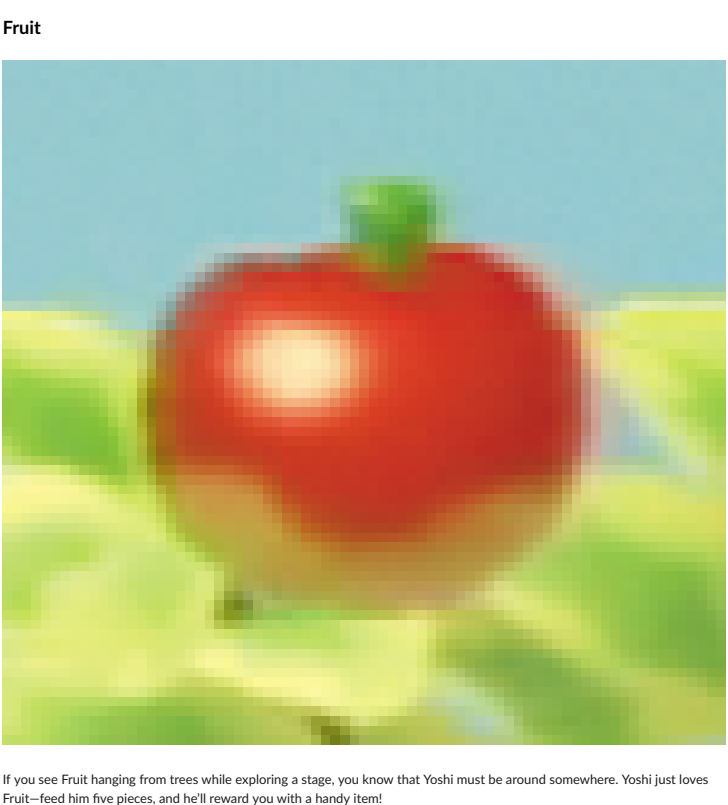
Most stages feature either a Red Ring or a Green Ring. When you touch a Red Ring, eight Red Coins will appear nearby. Hurry and collect them all before they vanish, and you'll score a special item—usually a Power-Up or a 1-Up Mushroom!

Green Ring



If a level doesn't feature a Red Ring, then it likely contains a Green Ring. Touch a Green Ring, and a small, spinning cluster of Green Coins will appear nearby. Collect those Green Coins, and then a second cluster will appear. Keep collecting those clusters until you've grabbed all five—a special item will be your prize!

Fruit

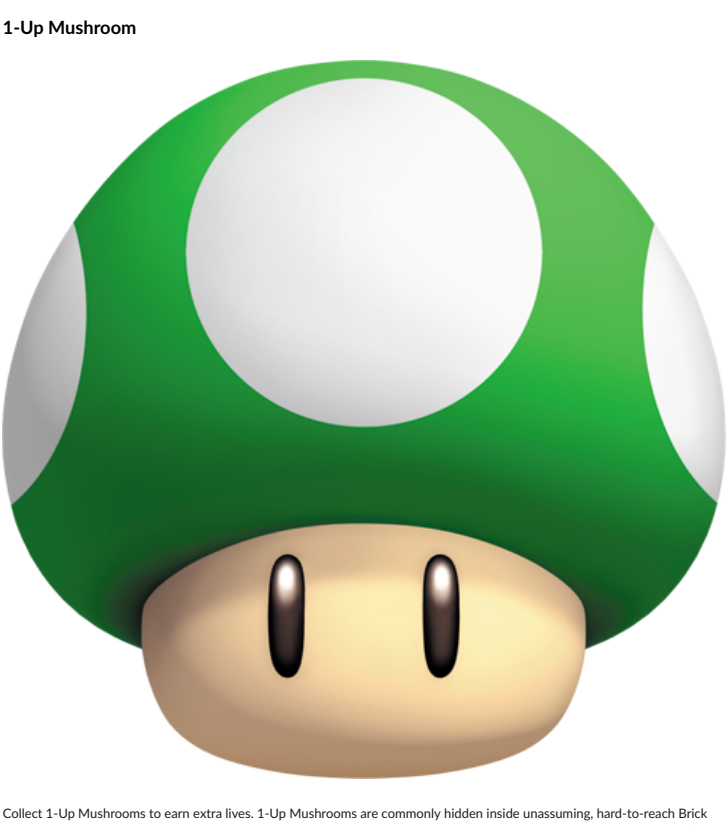


If you see Fruit hanging from trees while exploring a stage, you know that Yoshi must be around somewhere. Yoshi just loves Fruit—feed him five pieces, and he'll reward you with a handy item!

Tip

Some enemies will briefly transform into Fruit (Pokeys and Bramballs, for example). Be sure to feed these baddies to your pal, Yoshi!

1-Up Mushroom

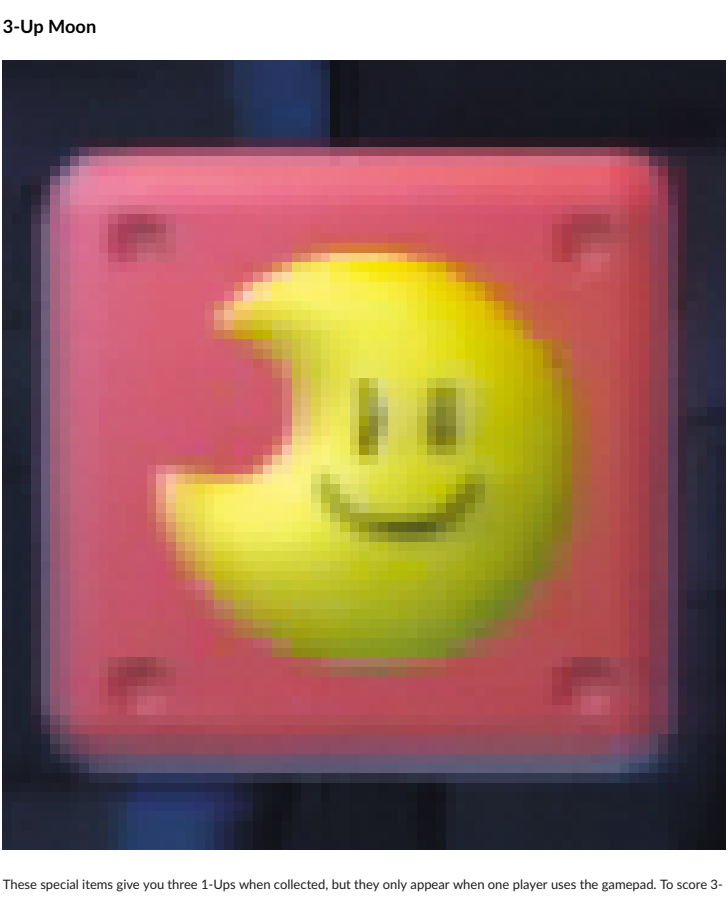


Collect 1-Up Mushrooms to earn extra lives. 1-Up Mushrooms are commonly hidden inside unassuming, hard-to-reach Brick Blocks. Mario must often approach these Brick Blocks from a specific angle to hit them and collect the 1-Up Mushroom. (For example, sometimes Mario must discover a hidden passage that leads to the Brick Block.) Toad also awards 1-Up Mushrooms when you visit his green-roofed houses.

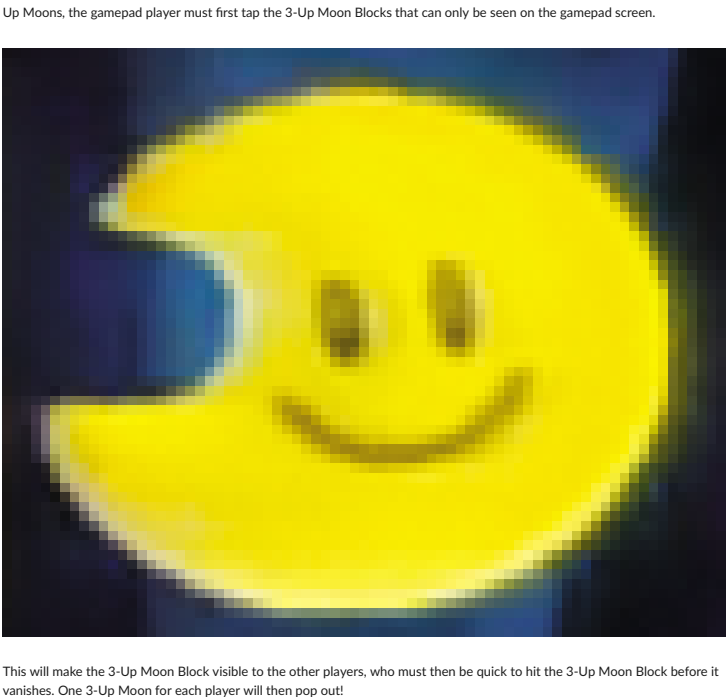
Tip

There are other ways to earn 1-Ups. One of the most common is to stomp multiple enemies without touching the ground. A great place to do this is Soda Jungle 1—Jungle of the Giants. Stomp all of those Big Goombas at the start without landing to rack up the 1-Ups!

3-Up Moon

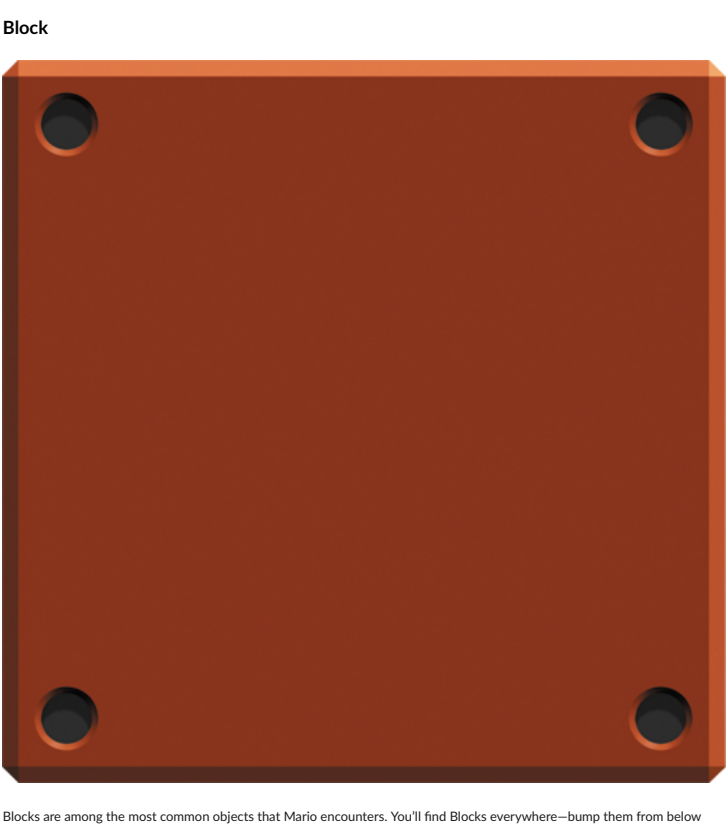


These special items give you three 1-Ups when collected, but they only appear when one player uses the gamepad. To score 3-Up Moons, the gamepad player must first tap the 3-Up Moon Blocks that can only be seen on the gamepad screen.



This will make the 3-Up Moon Block visible to the other players, who must then be quick to hit the 3-Up Moon Block before it vanishes. One 3-Up Moon for each player will then pop out!

Block

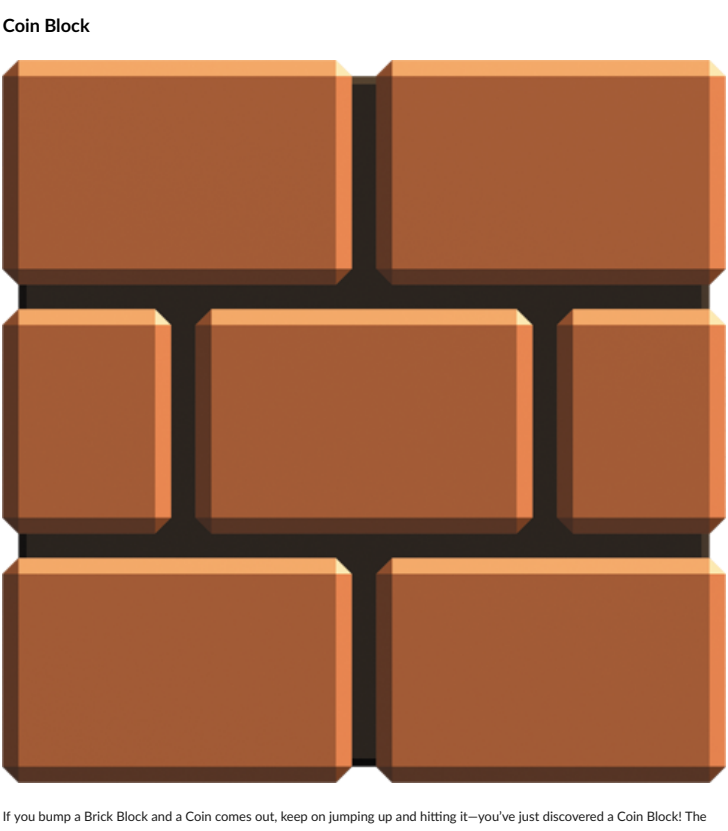


Blocks are among the most common objects that Mario encounters. You'll find Blocks everywhere—bump them from below with a jump, or hit them from above with a ground pound, and see if anything special pops out!

? Block

These special Blocks always contain some sort of item. It could be a mere Coin, but more often, it's a valuable Power-Up! Hit every ? Block you see—it's worth the effort.

Coin Block

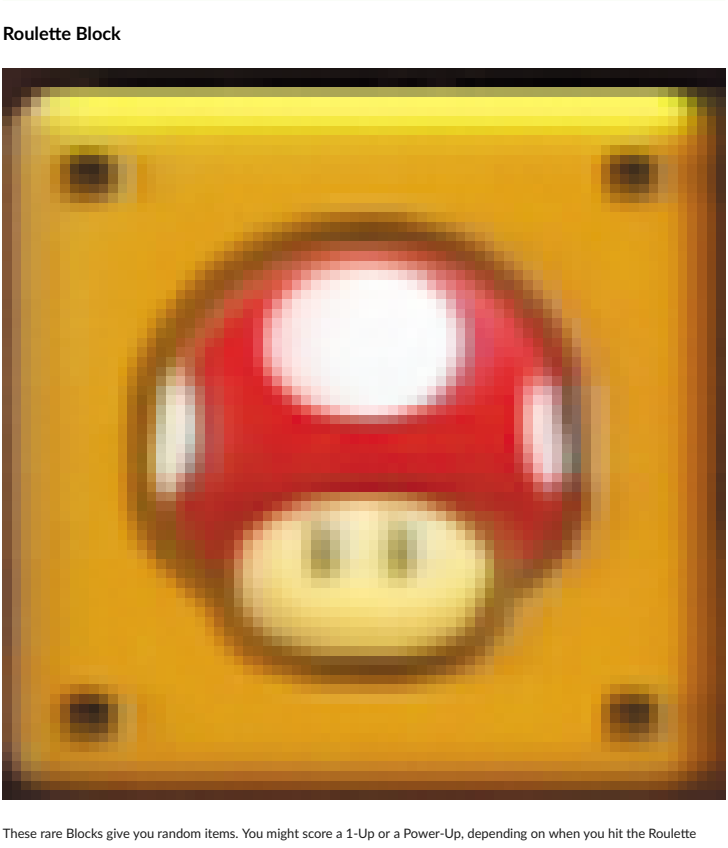


If you bump a Brick Block and a Coin comes out, keep on jumping up and hitting it—you've just discovered a Coin Block! The faster you bump these unassuming Blocks, the more Coins you'll score. Some Coin Blocks only give you one Coin, though. Coin Blocks become solid Blocks when they've no more Coins to give.

Tip

Perform a ground pound over a Coin Block, and hold down on the analog stick. Mario will continue to ground pound the Coin Block until he has claimed every last Coin!

Roulette Block



These rare Blocks give you random items. You might score a 1-Up or a Power-Up, depending on when you hit the Roulette Block. Whatever you get, you're always a winner!

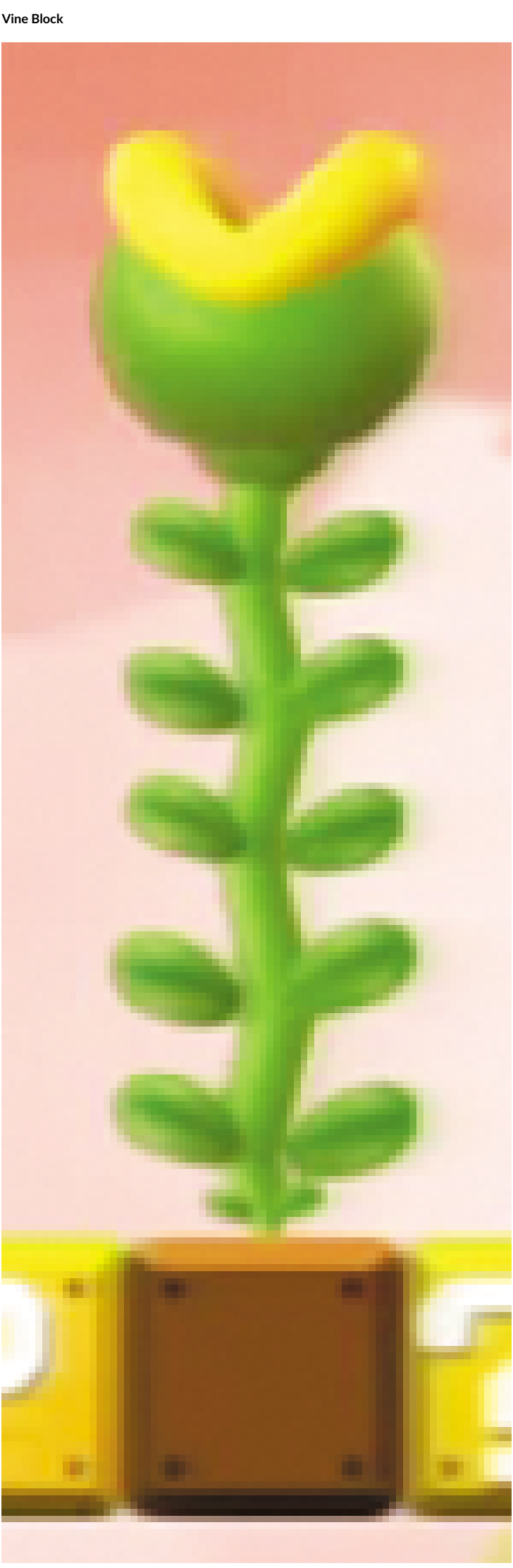
POW Block

These unique Blocks generate powerful earthquakes when hit or thrown, defeating all nearby enemies and often causing Coins (and sometimes Star Coins!) to fall from above.

Tip

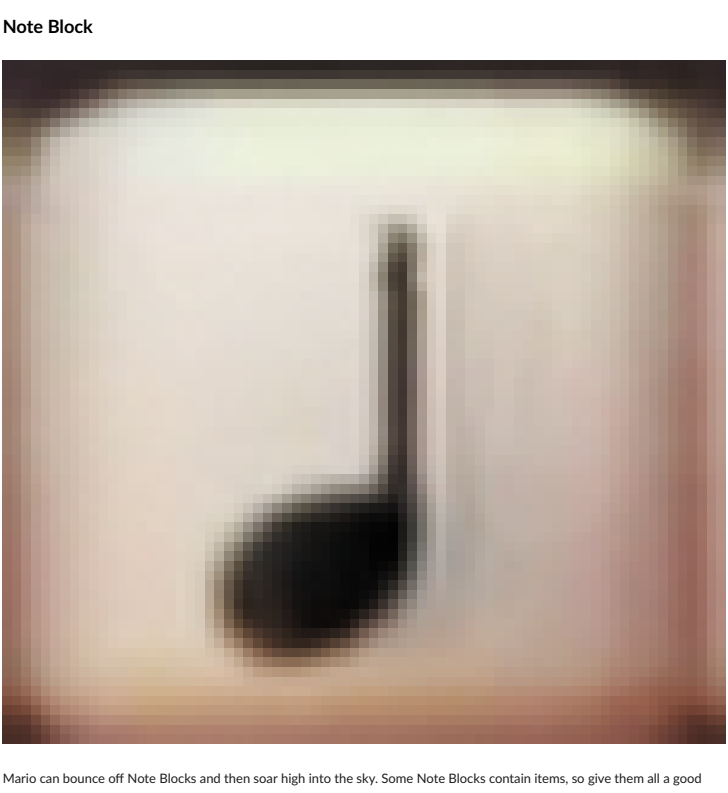
Try to defeat lots of enemies with POW Blocks—you'll score 1-Ups if you defeat enough of them!

Vine Block



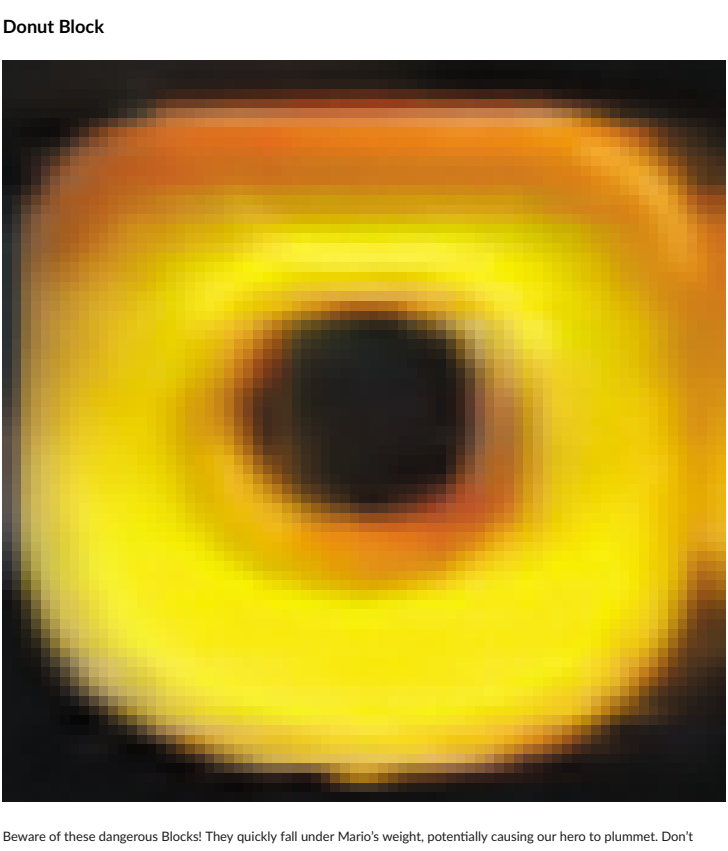
Bump one of these Blocks from below to make a Beanstalk grow up into the sky. You'd better climb up and see where it leads! If you ground pound a Vine Block, the Beanstalk will grow downward instead—this is usually not very helpful!

Note Block



Mario can bounce off Note Blocks and then soar high into the sky. Some Note Blocks contain items, so give them all a good bump!

Donut Block



Beware of these dangerous Blocks! They quickly fall under Mario's weight, potentially causing our hero to plummet. Don't linger on Donut Blocks unless you wish to drop, and jump from falling Donut Blocks before it's too late!

Tip

You can prevent Donut Blocks from falling out from under you by jumping in place.

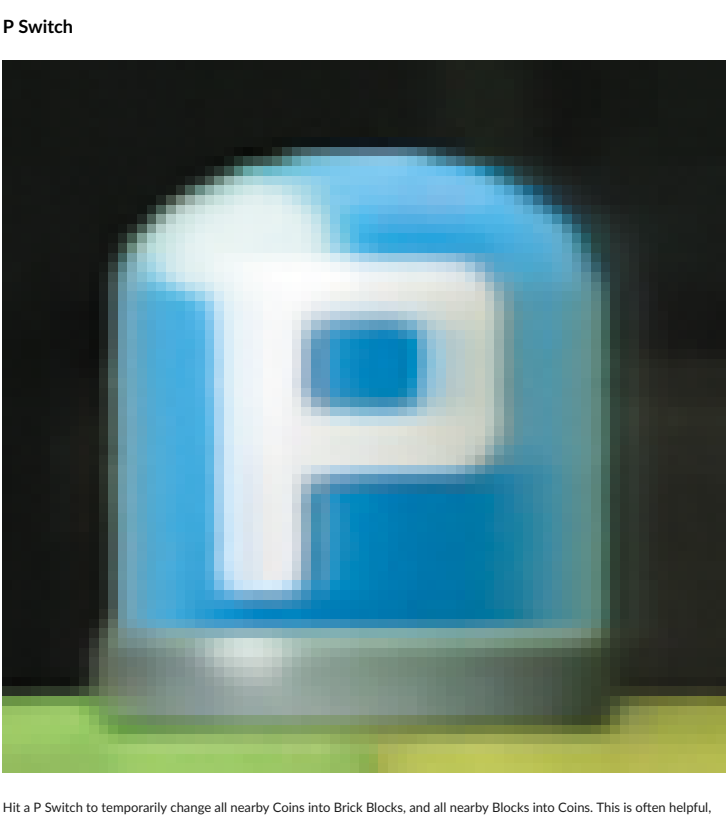
Super Guide Block

If you're struggling on a stage and have been defeated numerous times, the Super Guide Block might appear. Hit this special Block and then Luigi will show you how to get through the stage! He won't reveal any secrets, mind you—but at least you'll learn how to reach the Goal Pole in one piece.

Note

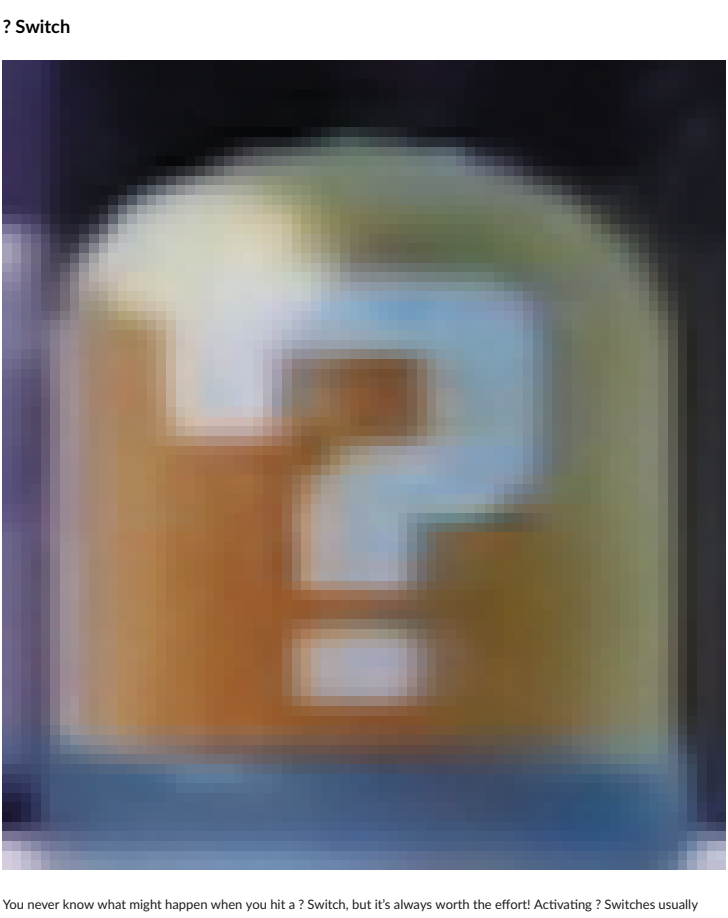
If you choose to stop watching Luigi, you'll be able to continue playing from where he stands. If you complete the level with Luigi, you'll have a choice to either proceed or try again. If you choose to proceed, then the stage will remain uncompleted on the World Map until you return and complete the stage without Luigi's help.

P Switch



Hit a P Switch to temporarily change all nearby Coins into Brick Blocks, and all nearby Blocks into Coins. This is often helpful, because the temporary Brick Blocks usually help you reach areas you otherwise couldn't explore. Sometimes Blue Coins appear when you hit a P Switch as well—you won't receive anything special if you collect them all, but that shouldn't stop you from trying!

? Switch



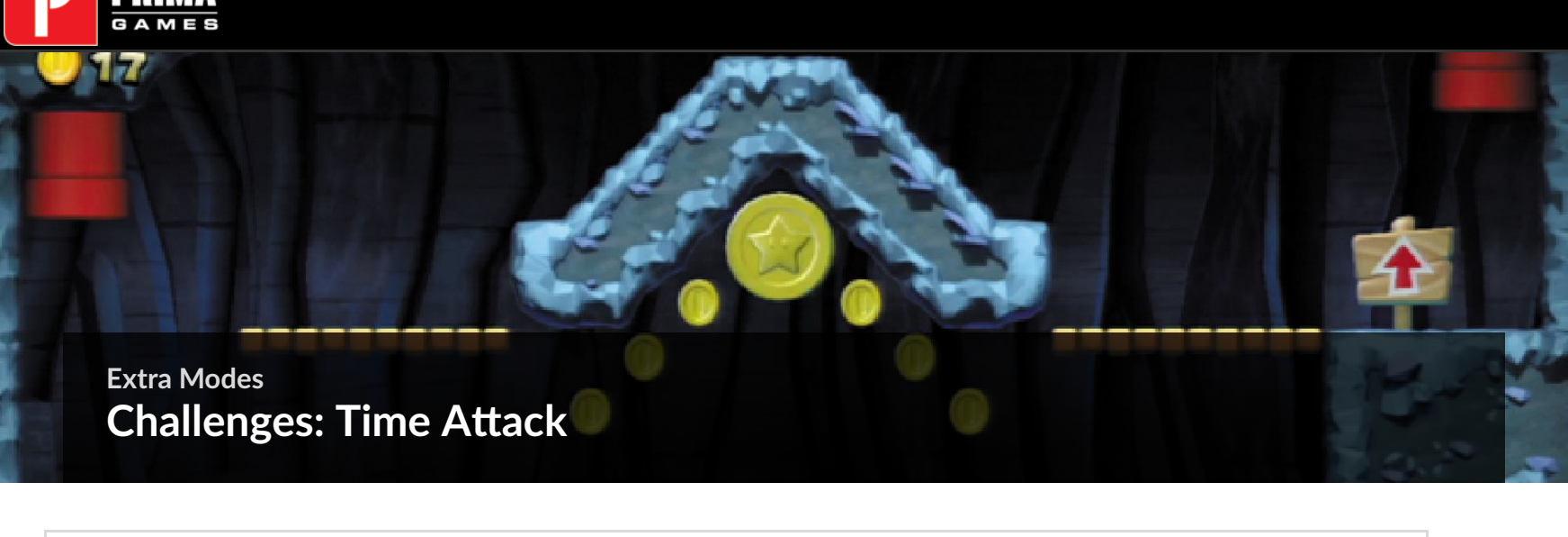
You never know what might happen when you hit a ? Switch, but it's always worth the effort! Activating ? Switches usually causes some sort of temporary change in the vicinity. Go ahead and hit ? Switches and see what happens!

Warp Pipe

Pipes appear all over the place, but only some of them are Warp Pipes. These special Pipes will ferry Mario to secret areas when he enters them. Simply stand atop a Pipe and crouch to see if you can enter it. If you can, then you've just discovered a Warp Pipe!

Note

Some Warp Pipes hang down from the ceiling—jump up and press up on the analog stick to enter them. You can also simply walk into sideways Warp Pipes.

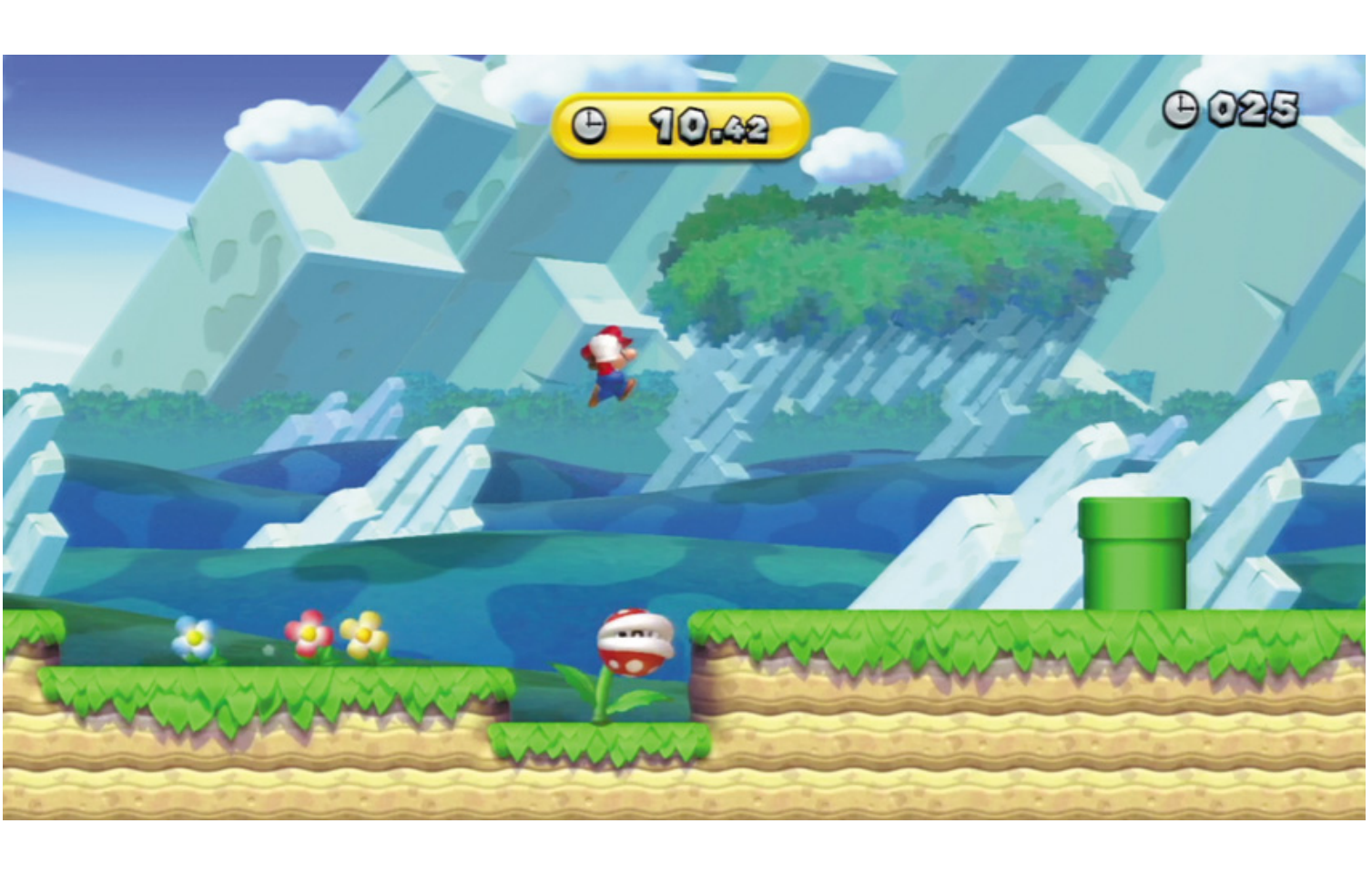


Extra Modes

Challenges: Time Attack

Time Attack Trial	
Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Dash to reach the goal in 35.00 or less.



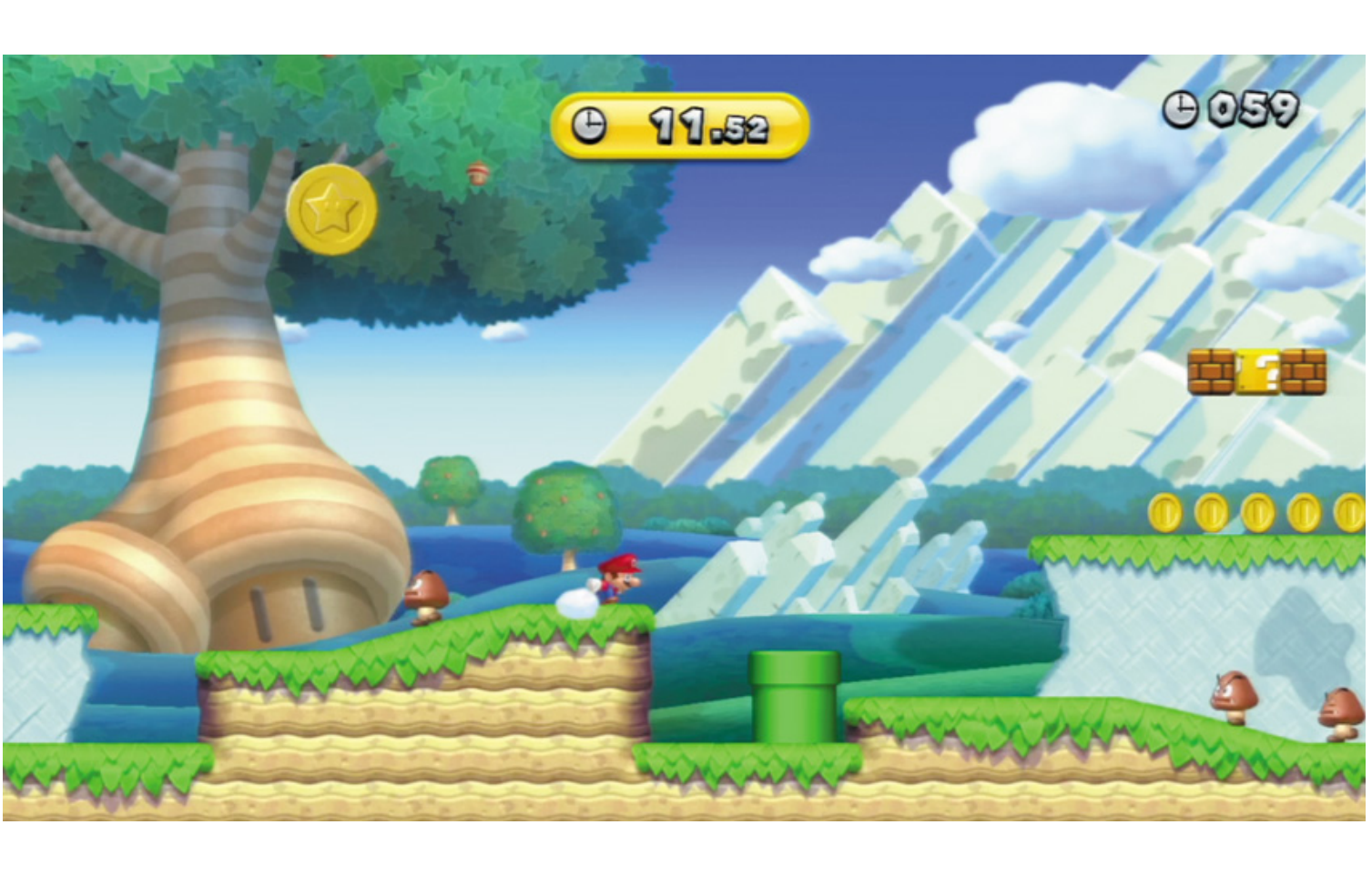
The Time Attack Challenges start off easy with this entry-level trial. Simply dash through the straightforward stage as quickly as you can, leaping over enemies and obstacles (or passing underneath them, in the case of Koopa Paratroopas). You should have little trouble reaching the goal within the time limit.

Note

You only need to place Bronze in each Challenge to unlock the next Challenge.

Acorn Plains Speed Run	
Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Reach the goal in 70.00 or less.



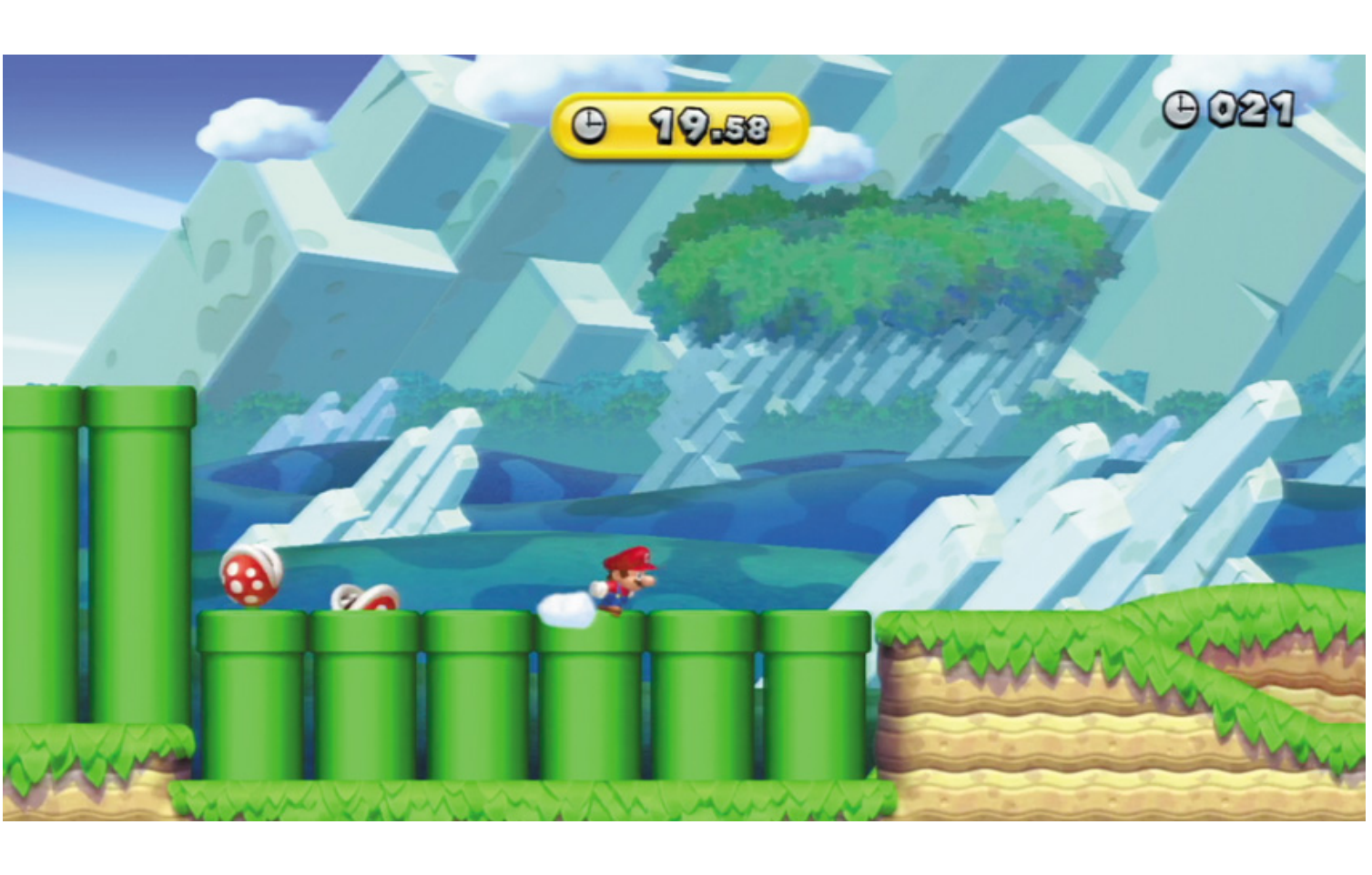
This Time Attack takes place on Acorn Plains Way—Story Mode's very first stage. Just keep dashing as you jump past enemies and obstacles, just like you did during the Time Attack Trial. A near-perfect run is required to score the Gold, so don't hold back!

Note

There's no need to collect Coins and Star Coins as you sprint through the Time Attack Challenges.

Full Speed Ahead	
Difficulty:	★★

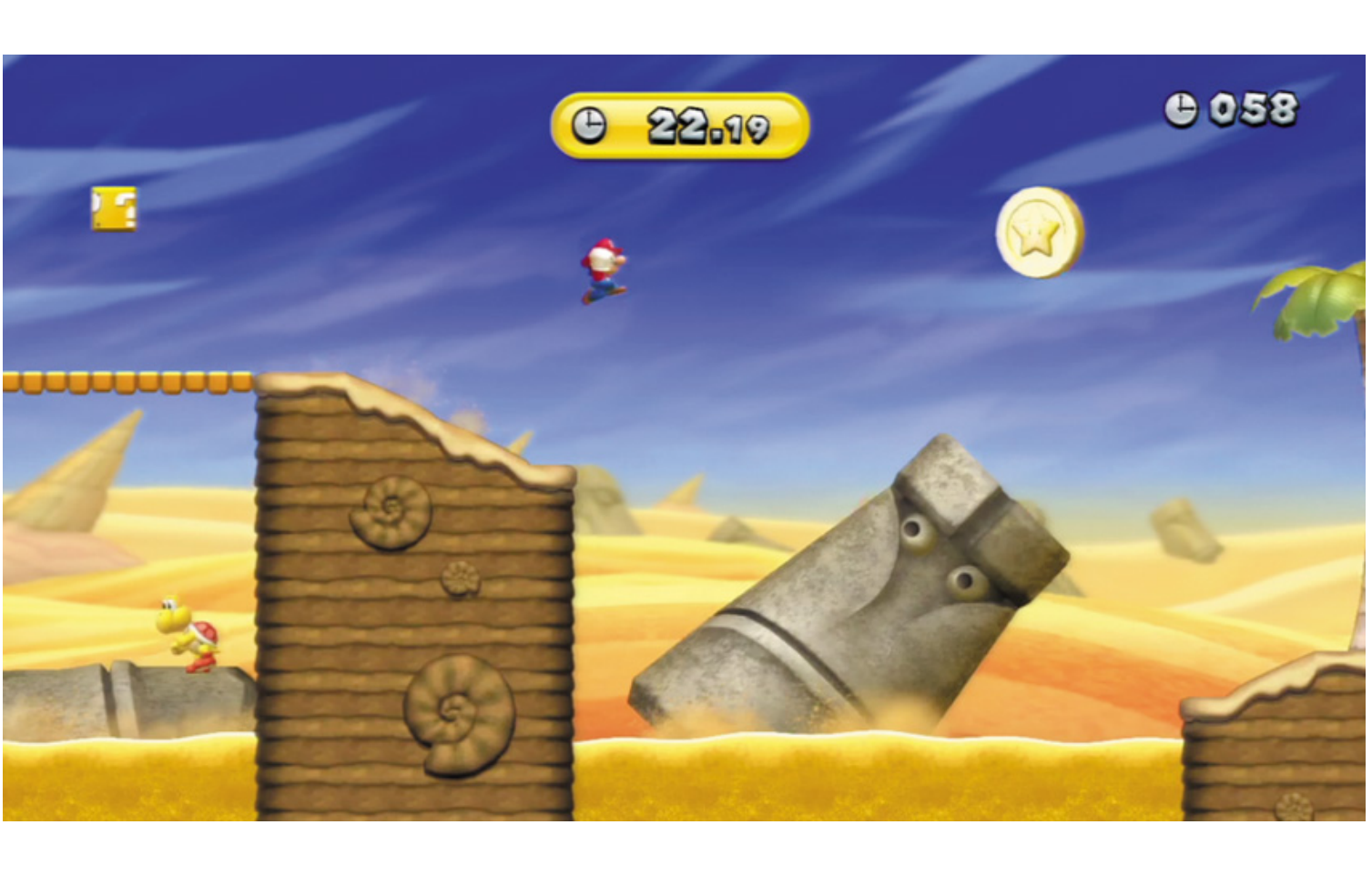
- Objective: Reach the goal in 40.00 or less.



The challenge factor ramps up a little in this Time Attack—but it's nothing you can't handle. Try keeping to the high ground throughout this run, and you'll avoid most of the obstacles. Don't stop until you reach that Goal Pole!

Stone-Eye Desert Dash	
Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Reach the goal in 80.00 or less.



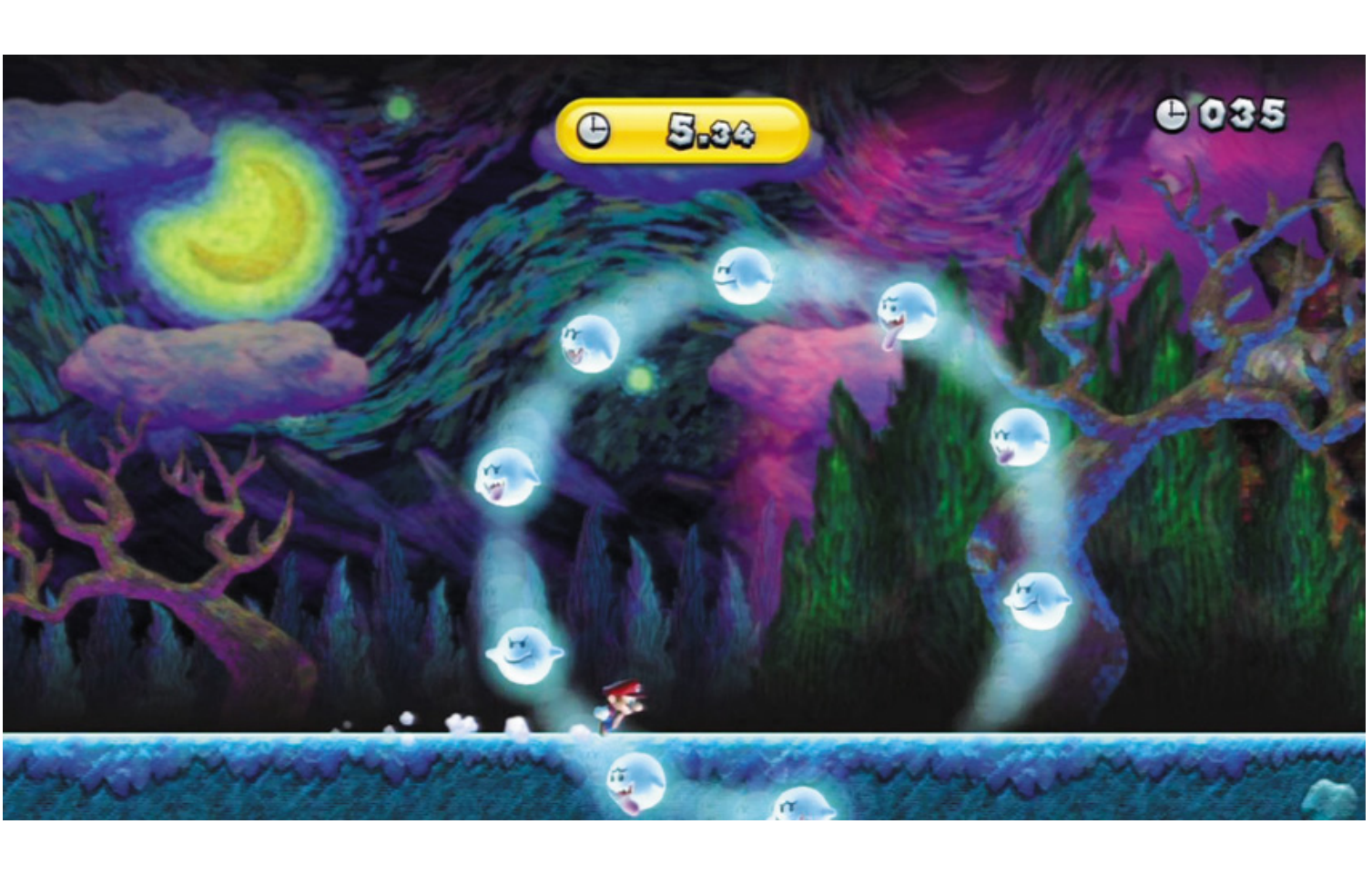
This Time Attack takes place on Layer-Cake Desert's first stage, Stone-Eye Zone. The quicksand is sure to slow you down here, but you've got plenty of time to reach the goal. Do your best to avoid the quicksand when you can, and rapidly jump to maneuver through the sand whenever you fall in.

Tip

Spin in midair to extend your jumps and help avoid the quicksand.

The Boo Ballet	
Difficulty:	★★

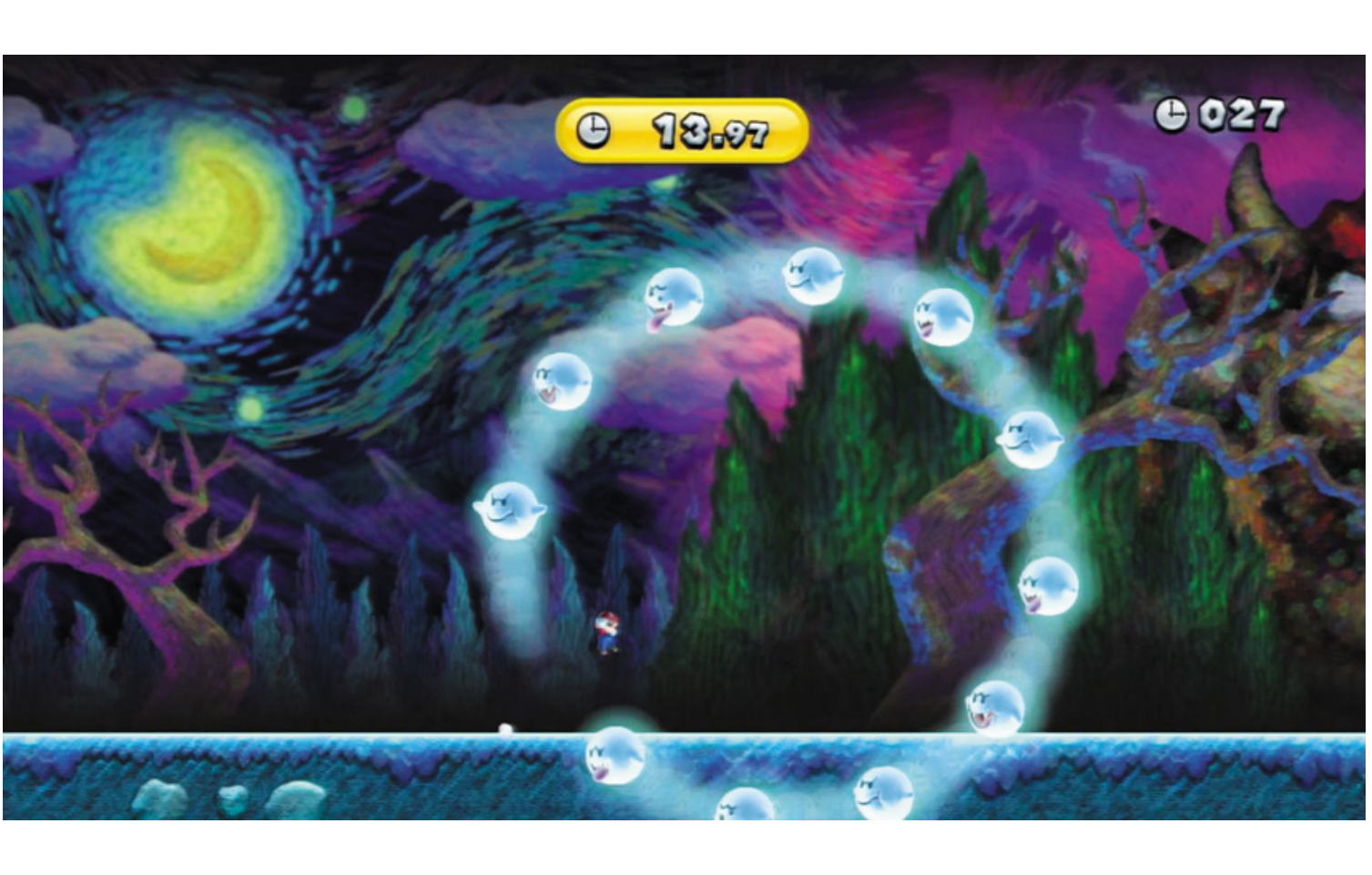
- Objective: Reach the goal in 40.00 or less.



This spooky stage has you sprinting through several rings of circling Boos. You can't touch even a single Boo because you're playing as Small Mario. Sometimes you'll need to jump through the Boos, and other times you can simply keep dashing along the ground as you pass through the gaps between them. The level is challenging, but it's not very long, so don't give up!

The Boo-Ballet Encore	
Difficulty:	★★

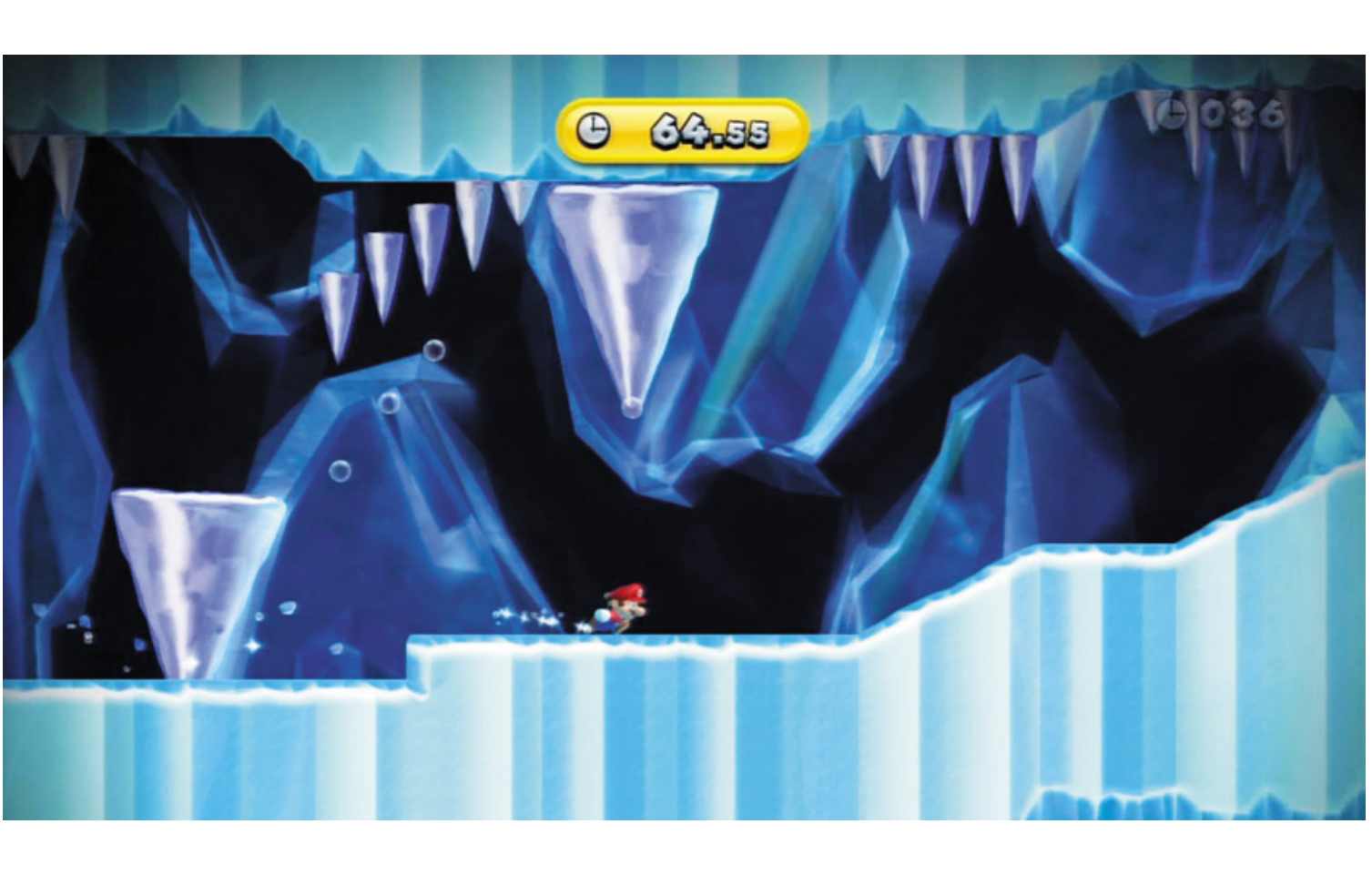
- Objective: Reach the goal in 40.00 or less while in Mini Mario form.



Thought you had put those Boos behind you? Not a chance! (Besides, behind you is a bad place for Boos to be.) This is the exact same stage as The Boo Ballet, but this time, you must bypass the circling Boos as Mini Mario. You might think this would make matters easier, but Mini Mario's floaty jumps actually increase the challenge a bit. Try to pass through whole rings with each jump—it's the fastest way to the finish!

Icicle Skating	
Difficulty:	★★

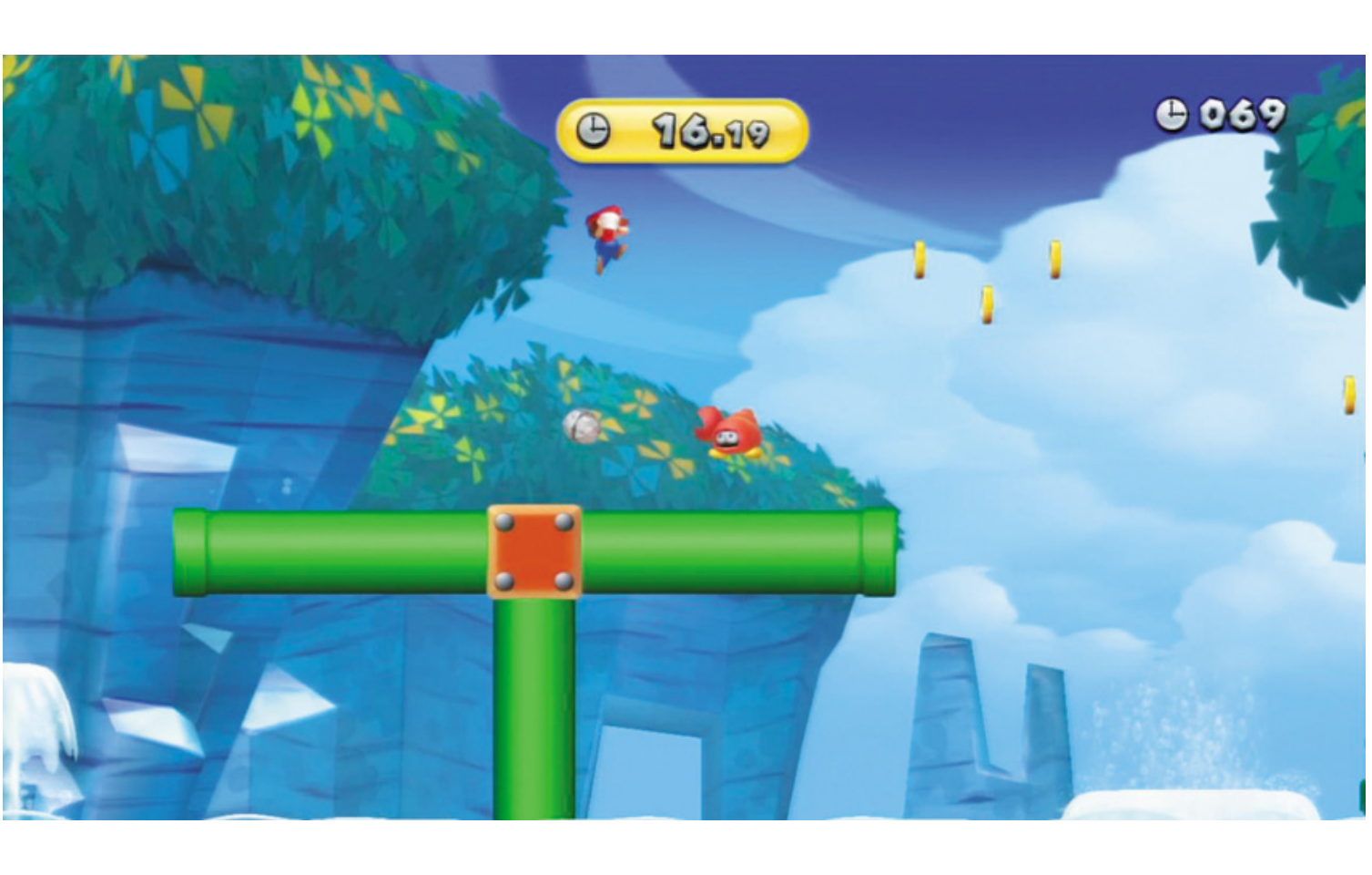
- Objective: Reach the goal in 100.00 or less.



Sprint past a slew of enemies and Icicles as you speed through this frigid stage. If it looks familiar, that's because you visited this chilly cavern while exploring the Frosted Glacier in Story Mode. Simply dash through the cavern without pause to slip past the falling Icicles and reach the far Warp Pipe in record time.

Huckit Hustle	
Difficulty:	★★★

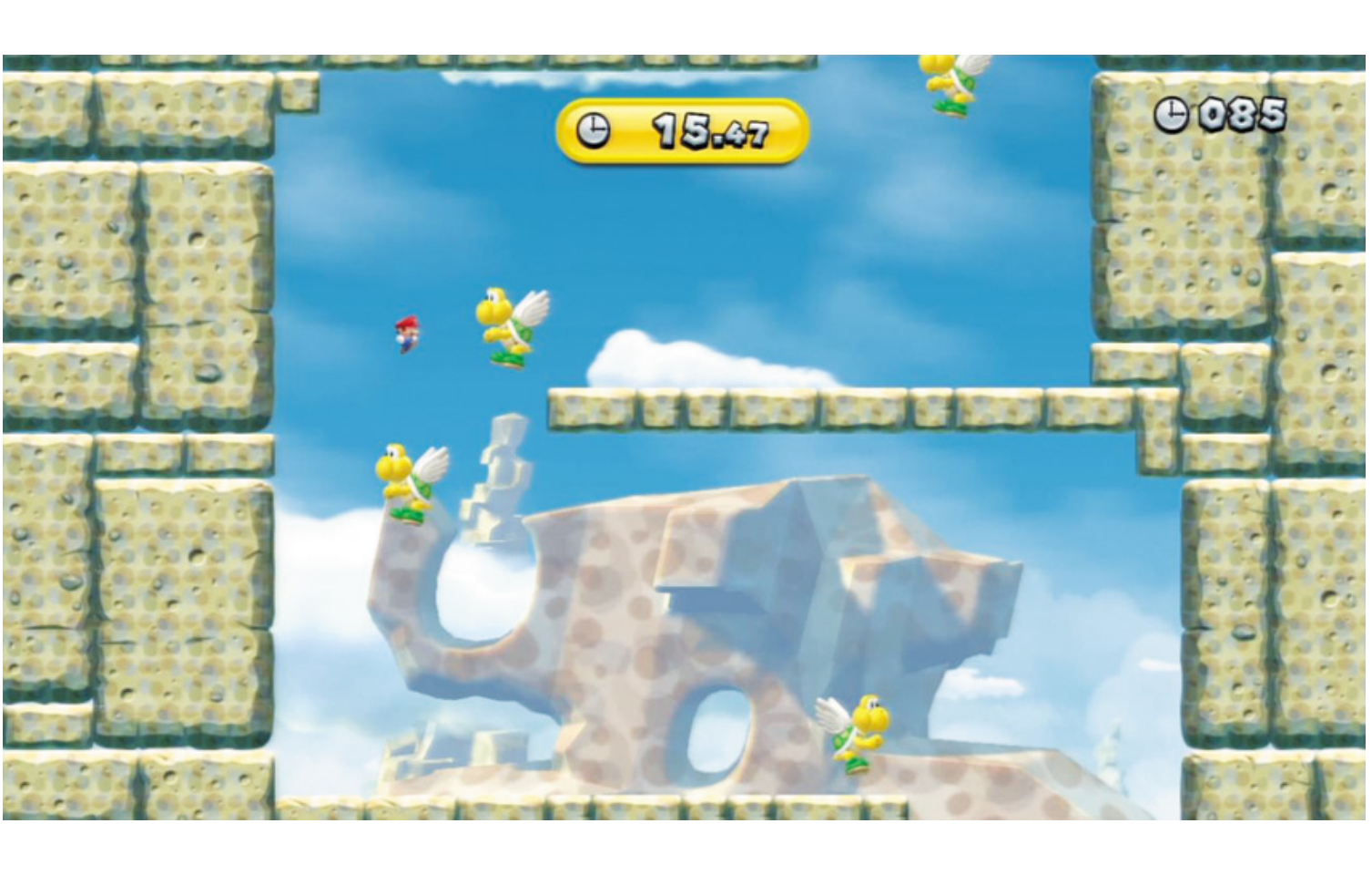
- Objective: Defeat all of the Huckit Crabs, and reach the goal in 85.00 or less.



Every Huckit Crab must be stomped as you sprint through this unique Time Attack. Beware of the rocks that the Huckit Crabs throw, and shorten or lengthen your jumps as needed to ensure that you land atop each one. Defeat every Huckit Crab with stomps as you sprint ever onward.

Mini Mountaineer	
Difficulty:	★★★

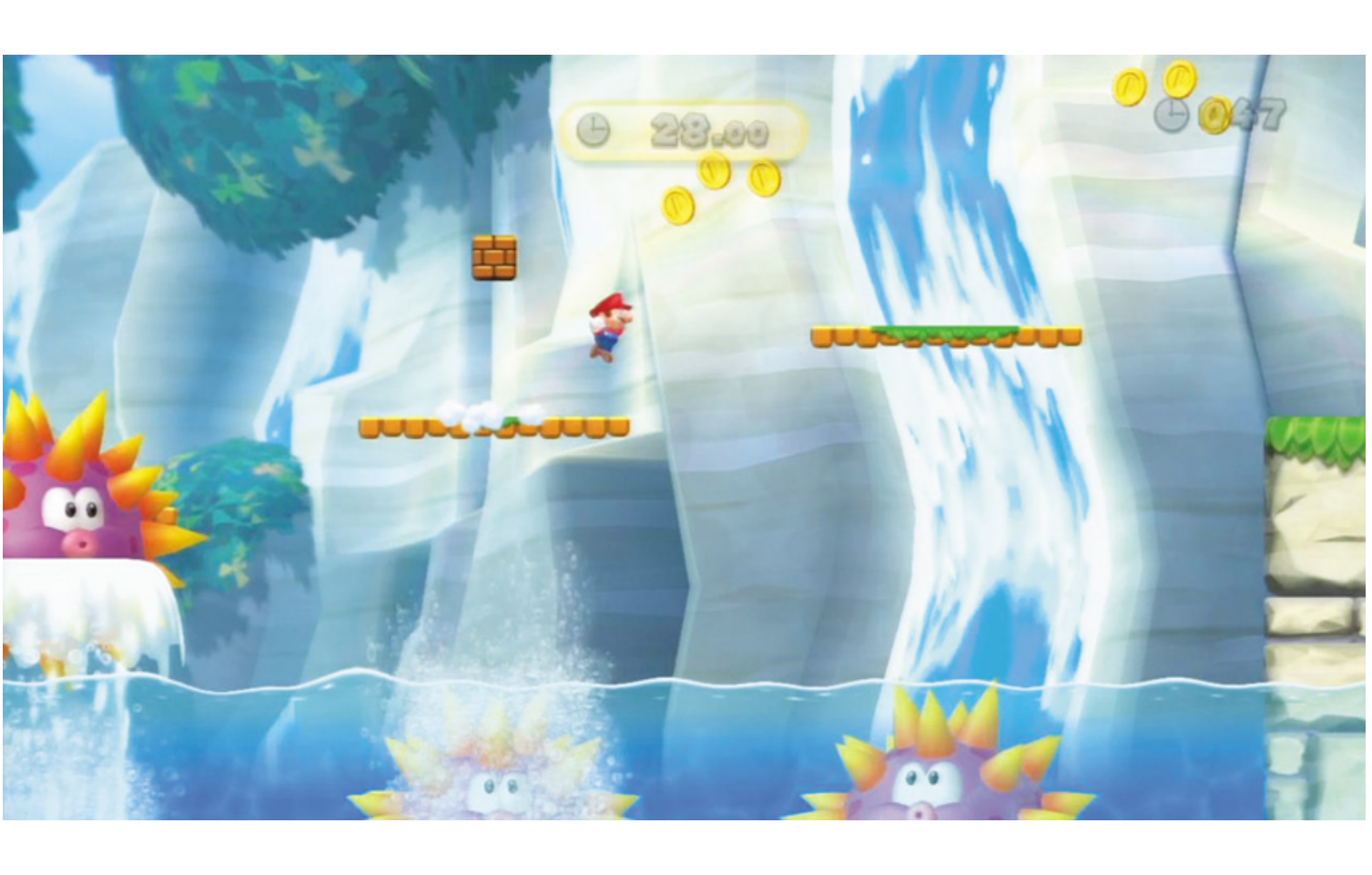
- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring in 100.00 or less without touching the ground in Mini Mario form!



You must keep off the ground as you scale the mountain in this challenging Time Attack. Thankfully, Mini Mario can float for quite a long distance after each jump, which makes matters a little easier. Jump off the first few Bullet Bills as you begin your ascent, then wall jump up to the Koopa Paratroopas above. Leap along the Paratroopas and just keep climbing. You won't lose as long as you're careful to land on enemies—unless you run out of time, that is!

Lurchin' Urchins	
Difficulty:	★★★

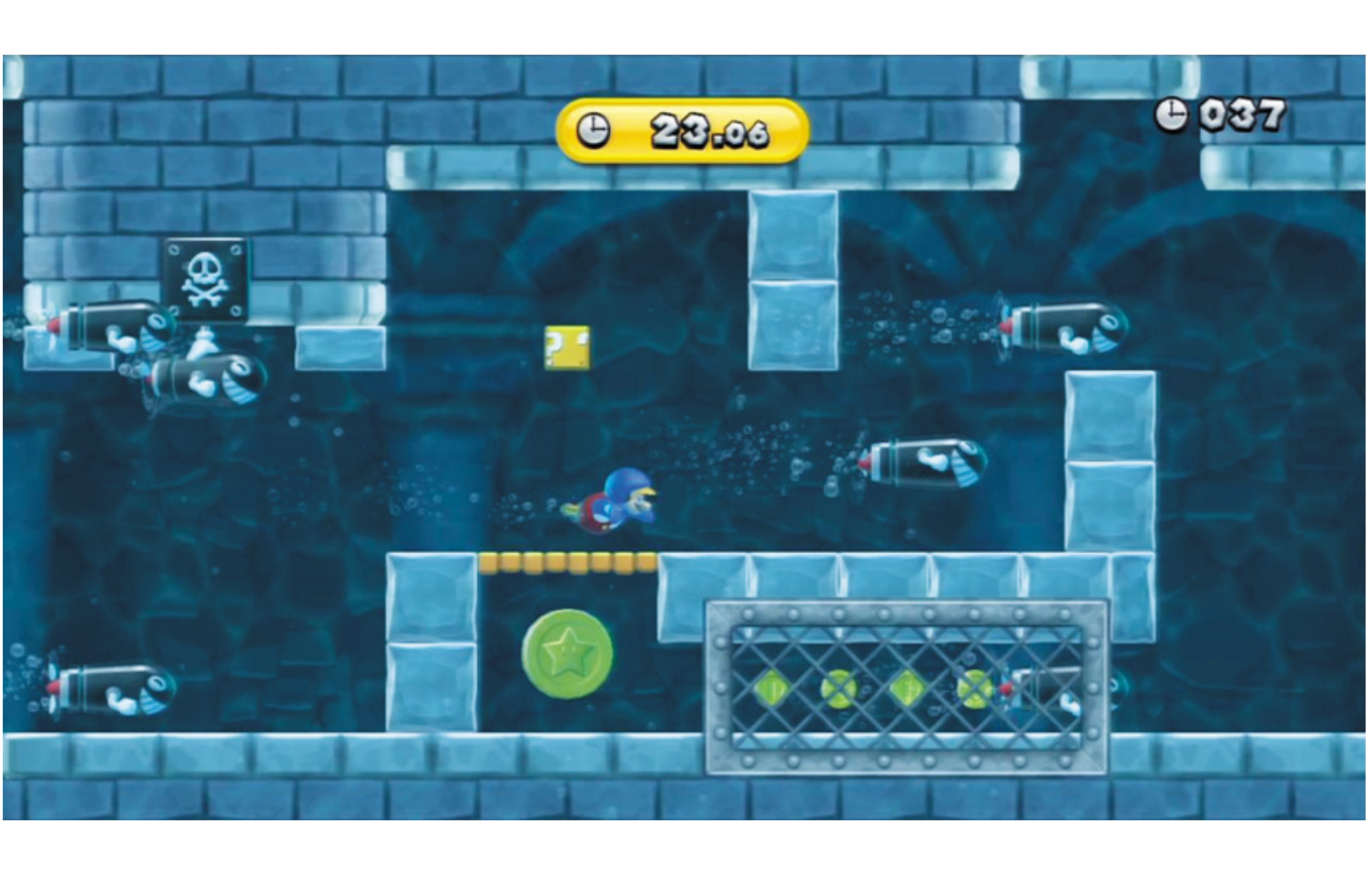
- Objective: Reach the goal in 75.00 or less.



This straightforward Time Attack has you leaping past Urchins as you dash through one of Sparkling Waters' scenic stages. Those ugly Urchins will defeat you with just one touch, so time your jumps carefully and make good use of the midair spin trick to help you soar past the Big Urchins.

Penguin vs. Torpedo	
Difficulty:	★★★

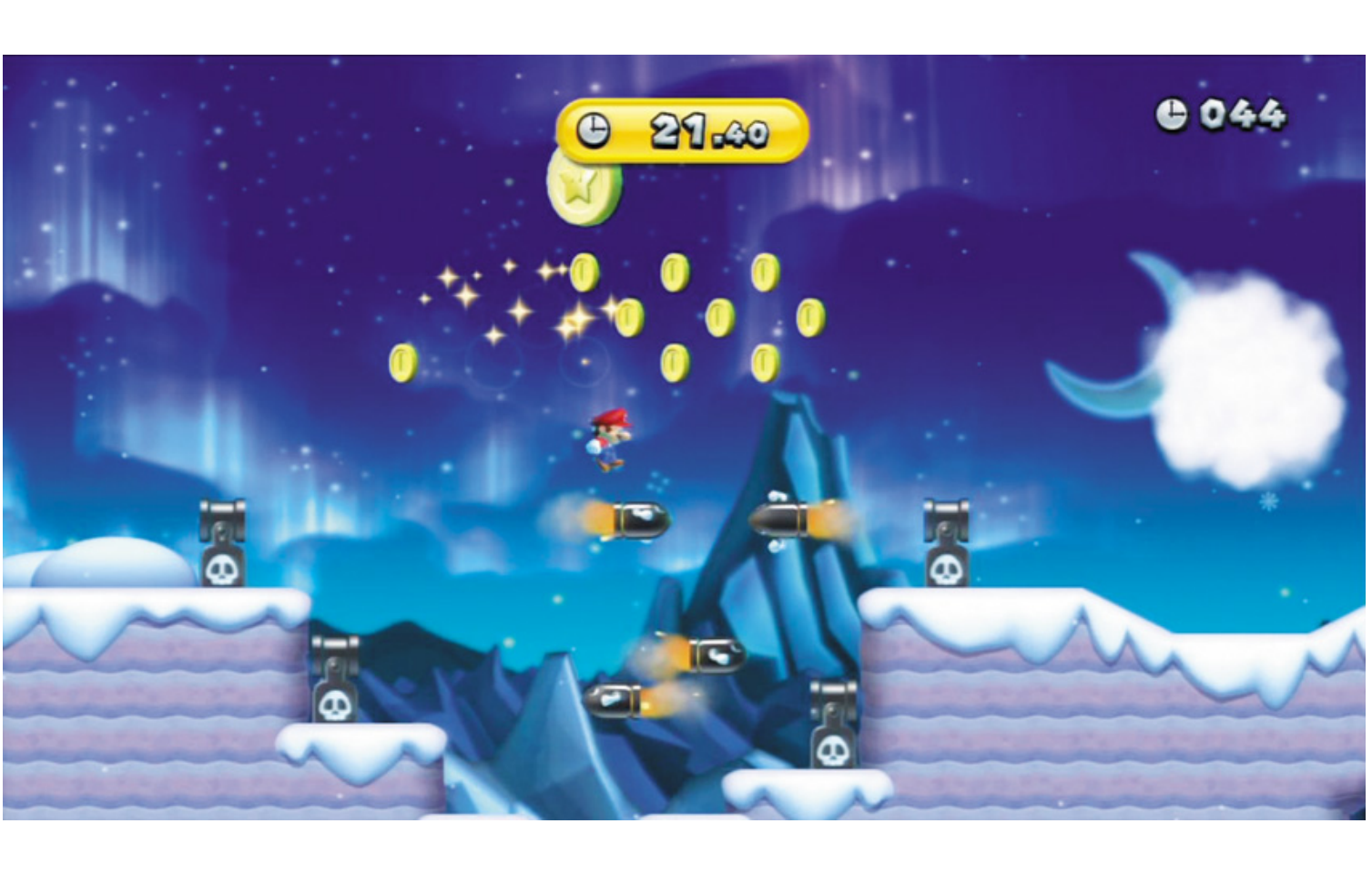
- Objective: Pass through the Goal Ring in Penguin Mario form in 60.00 or less.



Swim past a torrent of Torpedo Teds as you tear through this underwater Time Attack. You have the advantage of the Penguin Suit during this Challenge. Use it to swim fast while remaining "in-line" at a level depth. Whenever possible, stick near the middle to give yourself the best odds of reaching the Goal Ring in record time.

Slick Slopes and Bullet Bills	
Difficulty:	★★★

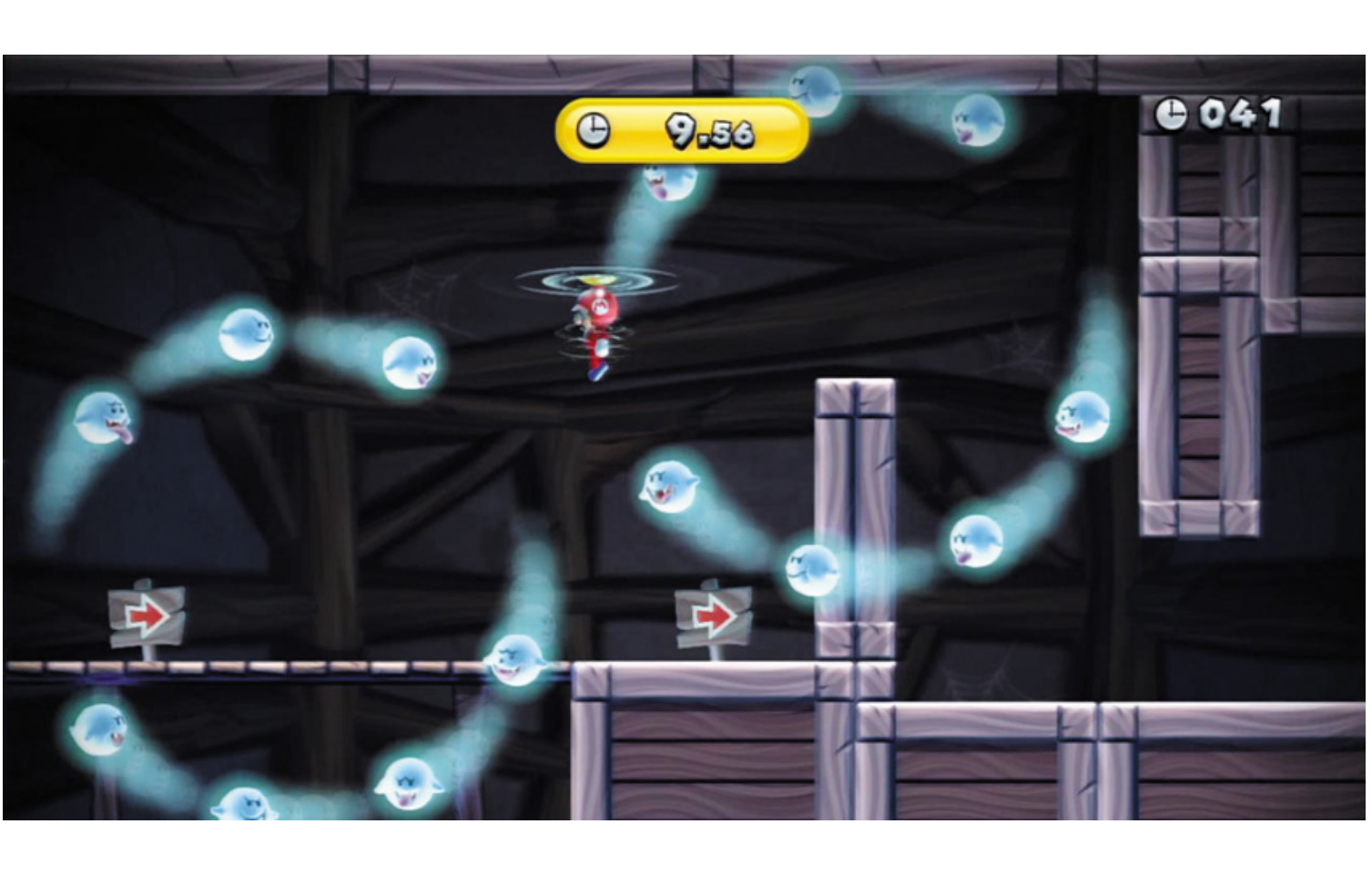
- Objective: Reach the goal in 65.00 or less.



Bounce off the Bullet Bills and other baddies as you dash through this snowy stage. The Scale Platforms add a little extra difficulty at certain areas as well. All in all, though, this is a fairly straightforward Time Attack dash—get in the zone and go for the Gold!

The Haunted Propeller	
Difficulty:	★★★★

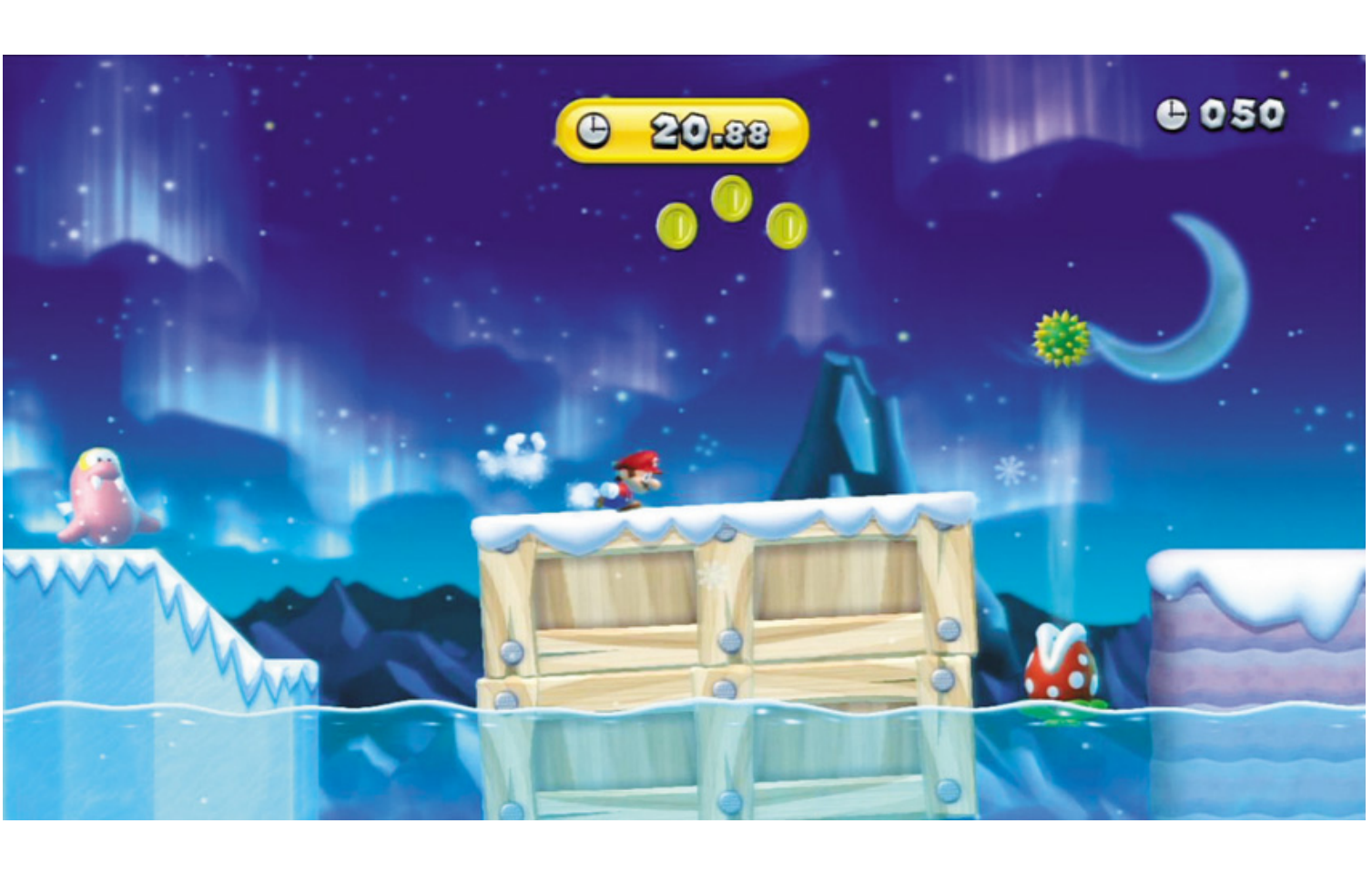
- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring in Propeller Mario form in 50.00 or less.



This haunted house is filled with rings of circling Boos, which present pesky obstacles for Propeller Mario. Aim to propel yourself through gaps between the Boos, and spin downward whenever possible to descend more quickly and reduce your midair hang times. You can't afford to touch even a single Boo, so slip through those gaps as you buzz toward the Goal Ring.

Fliprus Crossing	
Difficulty:	★★★★

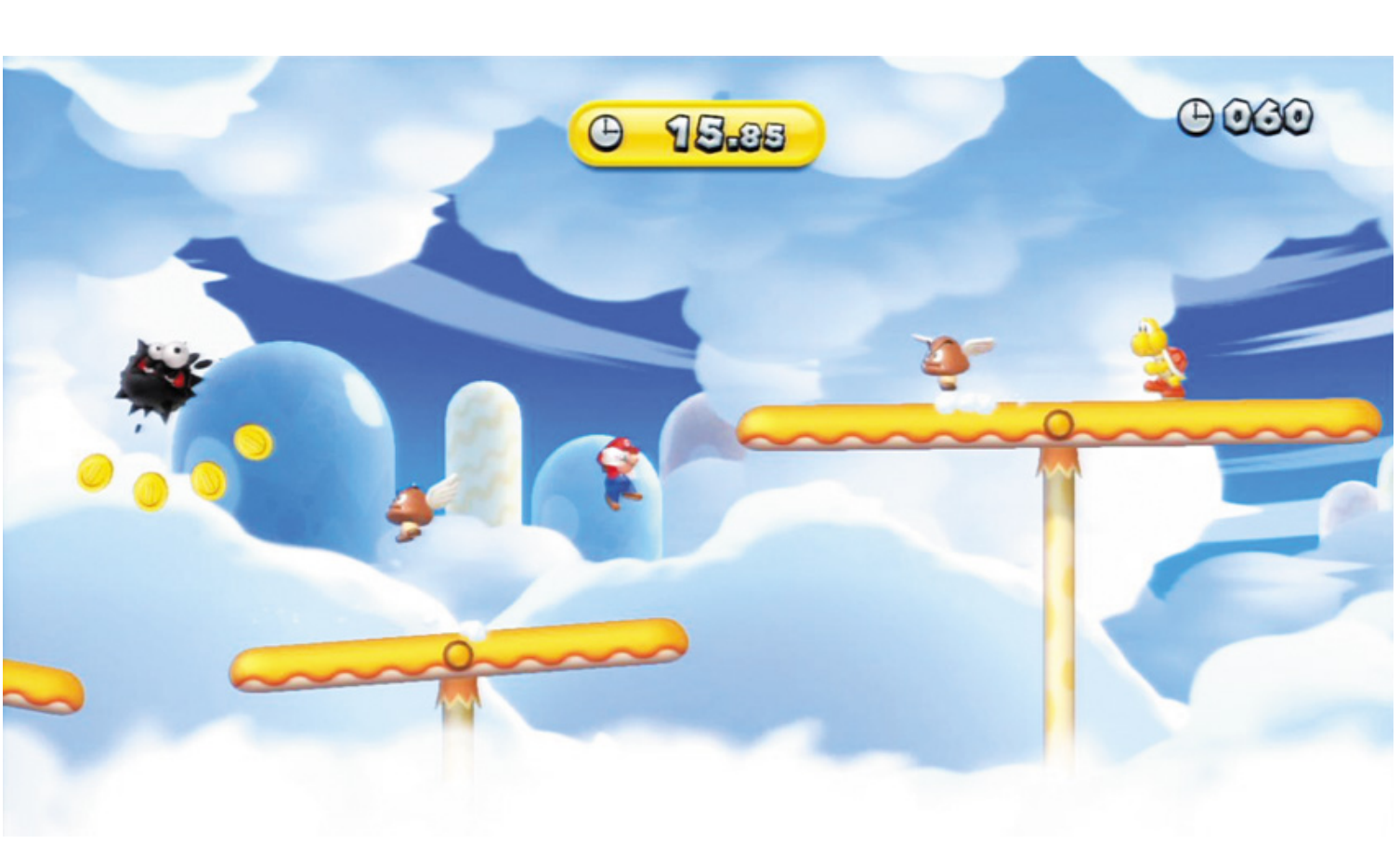
- Objective: Reach the goal in 70.00 or less.



This frosty frolic through Fliprus Lake is both fun and challenging. Dash straight past the Flipruses when they're jumping through the air, but beware of the snowballs they throw! Make shorter hops to pass between the River Piranha Plants and their prickly spores—it's risky, but it works. In fact, you can dash straight through this stage if you take advantage of these openings!

Rickety Sprint	
Difficulty:	★★★★

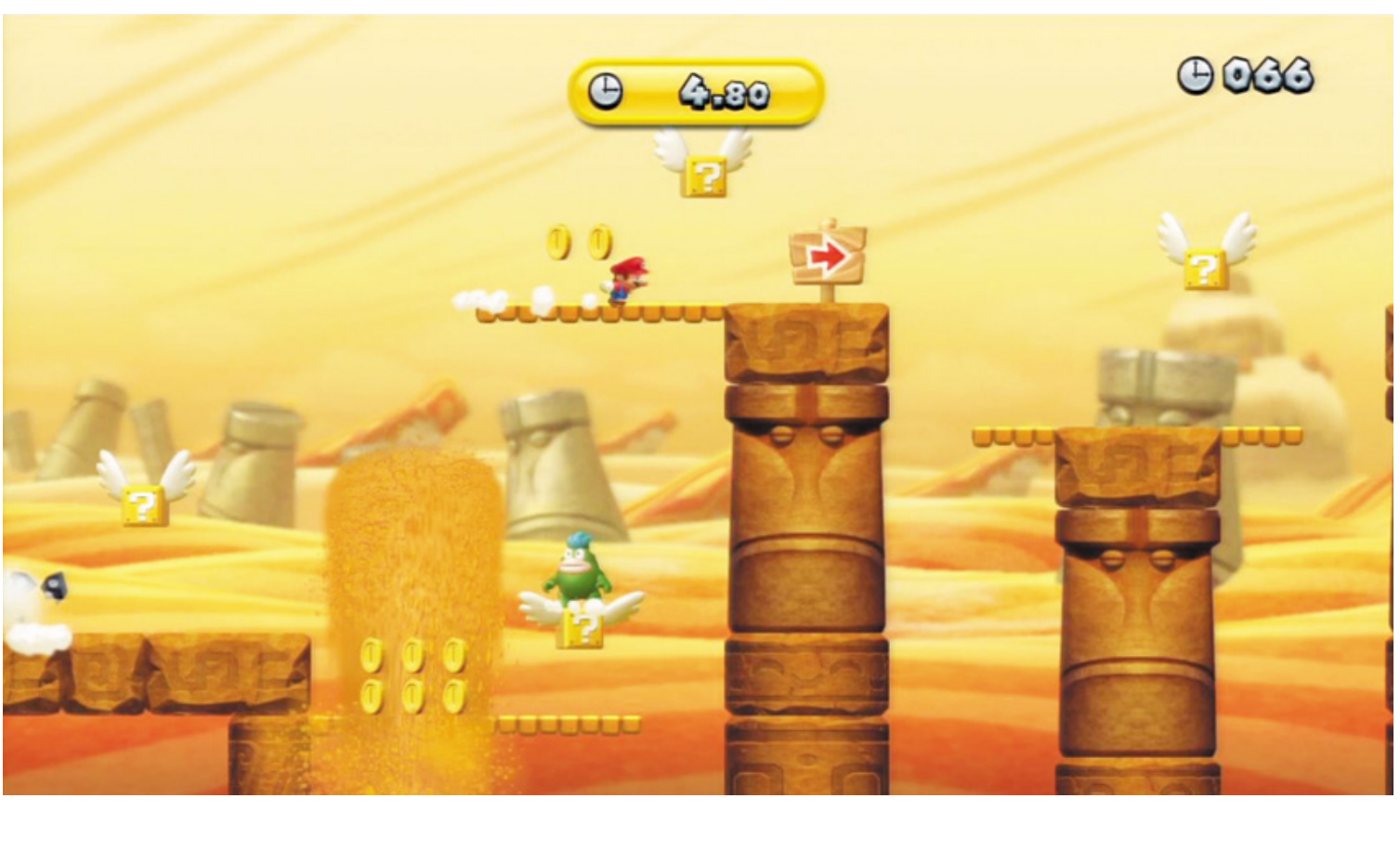
- Objective: Reach the goal in 75.00 or less.



This challenging Time Attack has you leaping between treacherous mushroom platforms high above the clouds. Enemies abound up here, including dangerous Piranha Plants that emerge from Pipes at the worst of times. Even Lakitu arrives to add to the chaos! You'll need to slow down at various points to slip past all of the obstacles, but you've got a little time to play with. Tailor your jumps carefully to slip past each threat on your way to the distant finish.

No-Cash Dash	
Difficulty:	★★★★

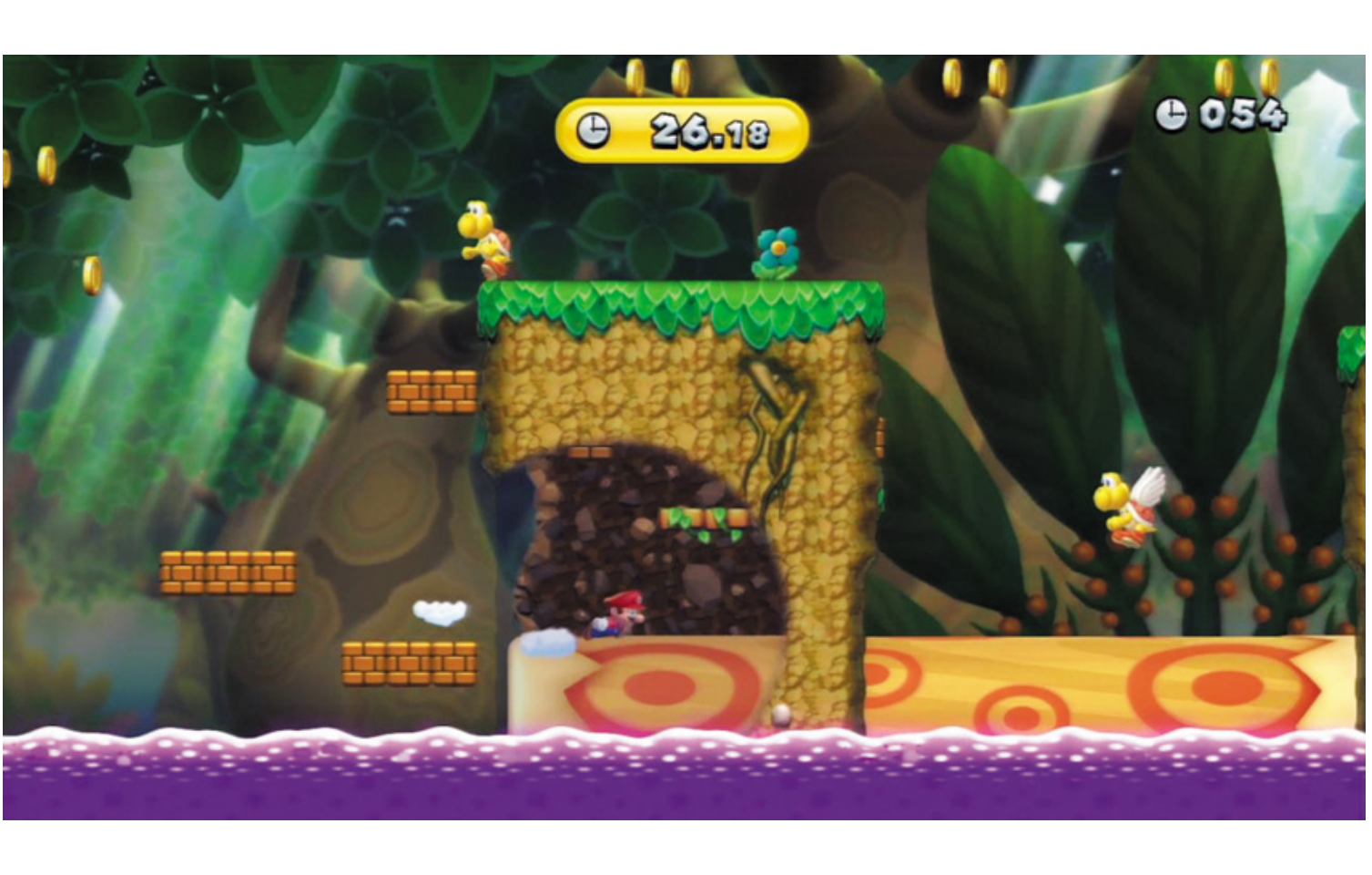
- Objective: Reach the goal in 70.00 or less without collecting a single Coin.



No Coins can be collected as you sprint through this tricky Time Attack. Luckily, Small Mario is wee enough to slip past many of them—for example, you can dash right past the first two Coins without fear of grabbing them. Be careful not to jump up and hit the many ? Blocks as you cruise through these dunes—you'll claim a game-ending Coin if you do!

Poison-Swamp Scramble	
Difficulty:	★★★★★

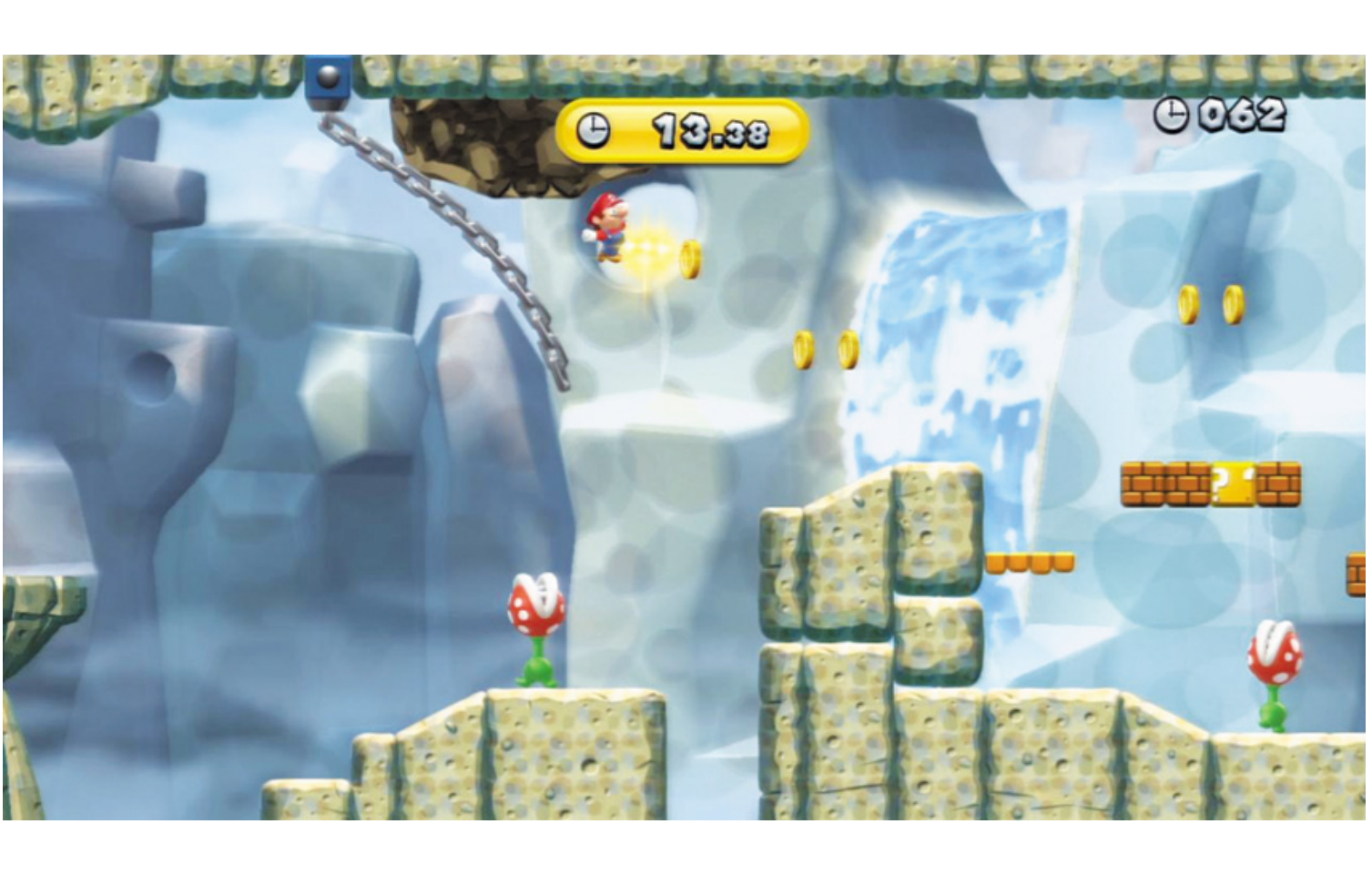
- Objective: Reach the goal in 80.00 or less.



The first five-star Time Attack has you scrambling through the Soda Jungle. Enemies are everywhere in this dangerous place, and the Poison Bog below you is a constant threat. Try to keep to the high ground, making good use of midair spins to help extend your jumps across the longer gaps. When you reach a set of moving Brick Blocks, sprint straight through the ledge ahead to pass into a secret passage that provides a sneaky shortcut!

Swing into Action	
Difficulty:	★★★★★

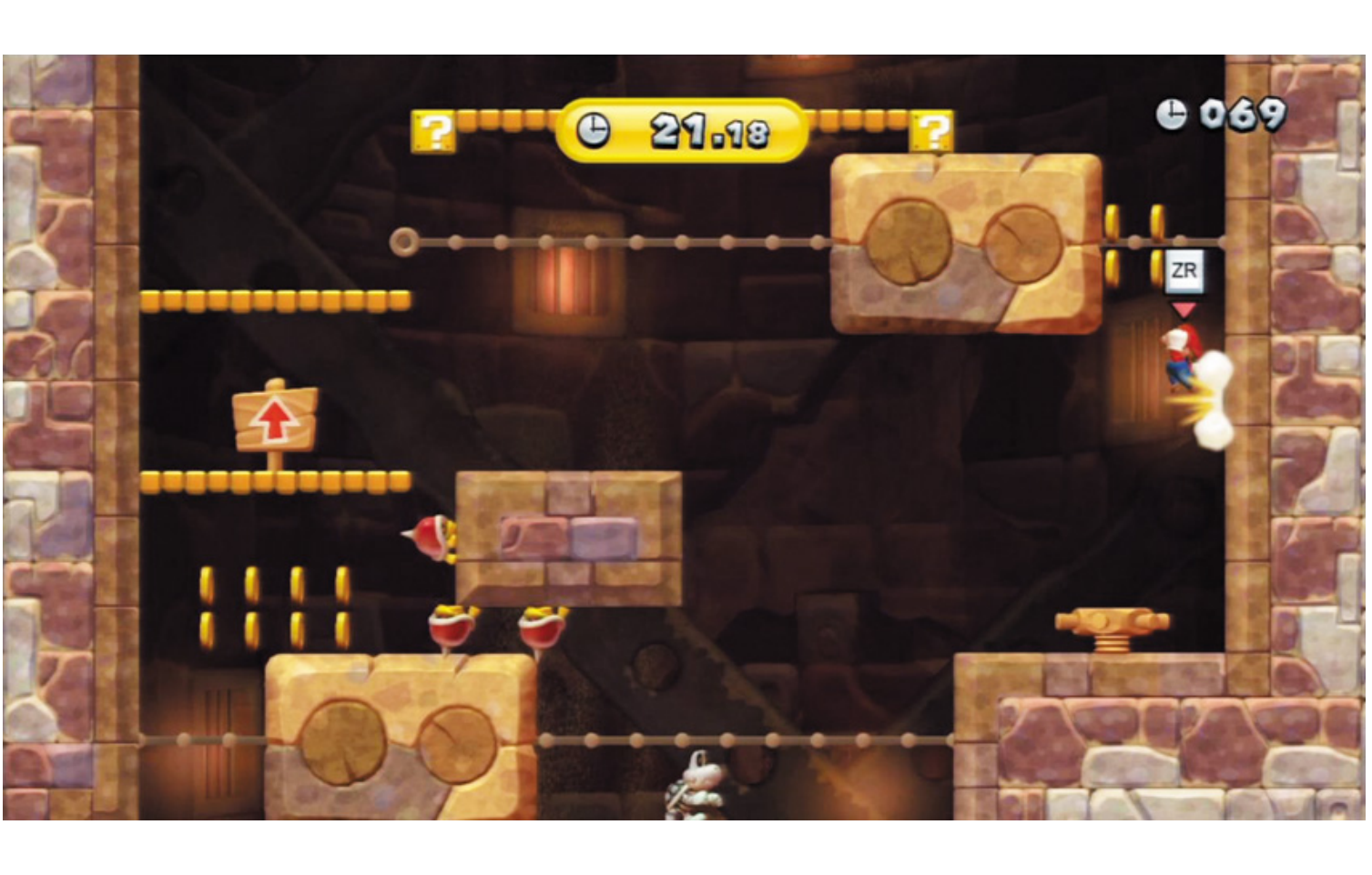
- Objective: Reach the goal in 75.00 or less.



Beware of the Stalking Piranha Plants as you bolt through this treacherous stretch of the Rock-Candy Mines. Quickly jump from each of the chains here to maintain momentum as you motor ever onward. When you reach the trio of chains, perform spin jumps to quickly move between them. Take a moment and use a Koopa shell to clear the final floating platforms of Stalking Piranha Plants, and you'll simplify your approach to the goal.

Stoneslide Tower Climb	
Difficulty:	★★★★★

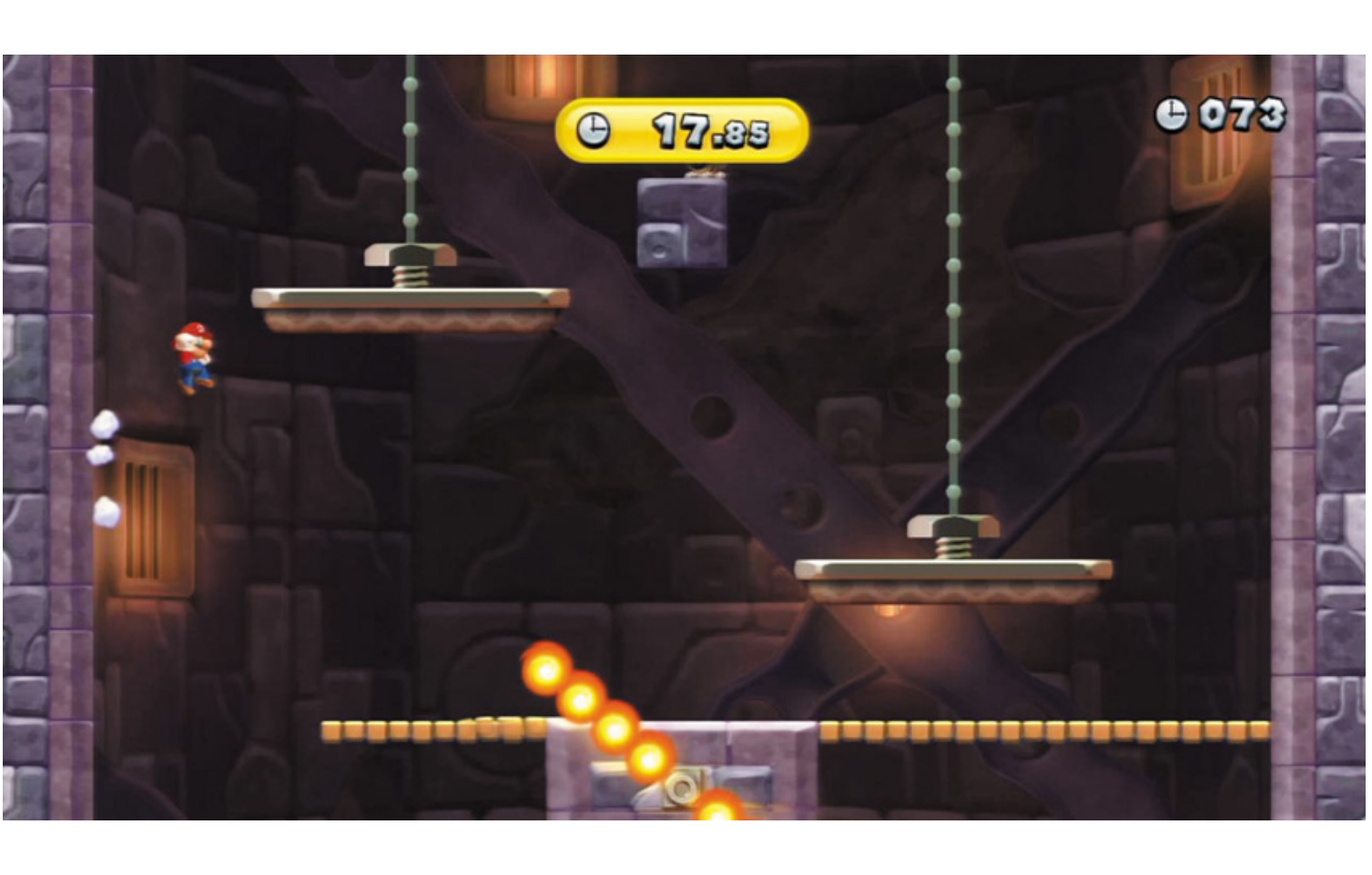
- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring in 90.00 or less.



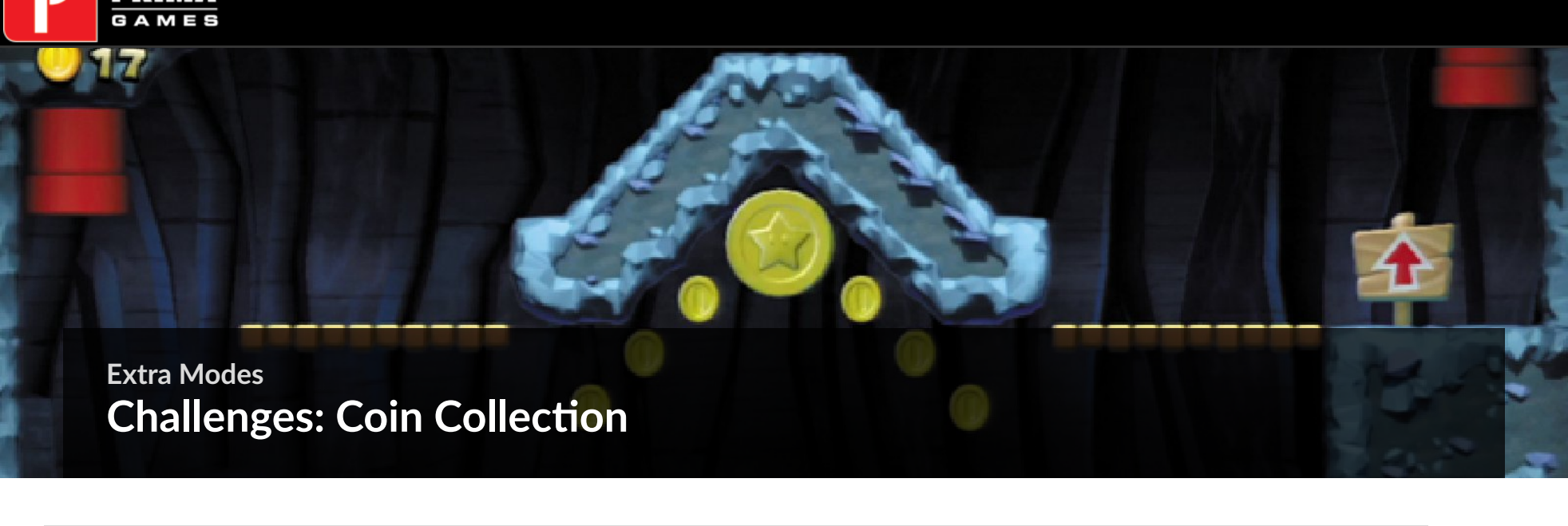
Maximize your speed with spins and wall jumps as you ascend this screwtop-filled tower. Perform a spin jump and land on the very first screwtop. It will automatically start spinning the moment you touch down—this will save you precious seconds as you bound up to the first Warp Pipe! You don't need to use every screwtop in the tower, mind you—in fact, you can skip past most of the rest, using wall jumps and midair spins to climb the tower with far greater speed!

Screwtop It Up	
Difficulty:	★★★★★

- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring in 90.00 or less.



Here's another super-challenging Time Attack in which you must climb a tall tower with the aid of Screwtop Platforms. Again, perform midair spins to start the Screwtop Platforms moving the moment you land on them. Don't ride the Screwtop Platforms to the end of their tracks, though—jump off as soon as you're within jumping range of the next ledge or platform. Ignore enemies and wall jump up the tower whenever possible to hasten your ascent to the Goal Ring.



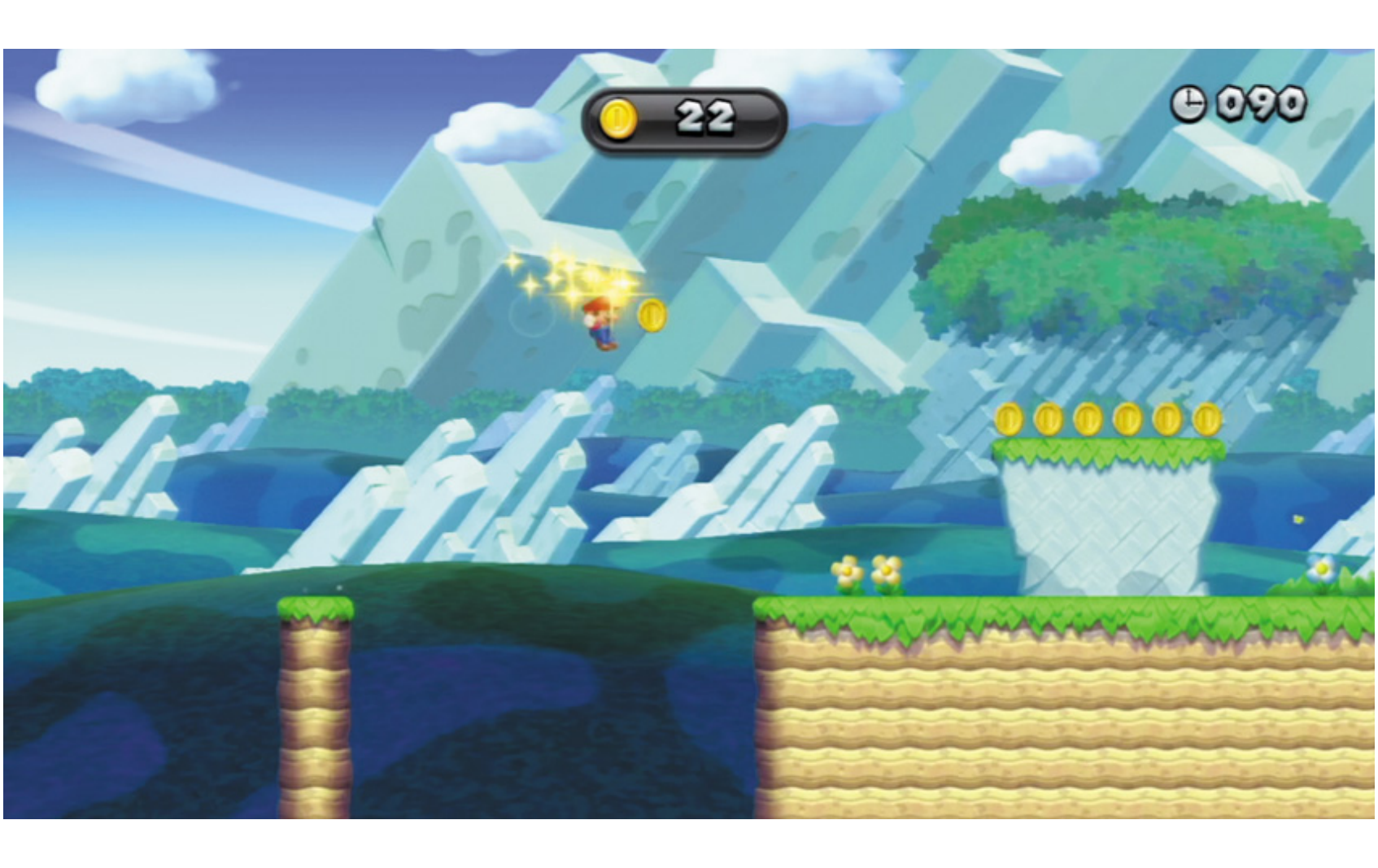
Extra Modes

Challenges: Coin Collection

Triple-Jump for Coins

Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Use the triple jump to collect Coins, and reach the goal.



The first Coin Collection Challenge eases you into the concept by tasking you with collecting at least 75 Coins as you dash through a straightforward course. Perform triple jumps by jumping the moment that you land from each jump. This will give you the height and distance you need to snag all of those high Coins!

Tip

Touch the Red Ring and collect all of the Red Coins that appear to maximize your score!

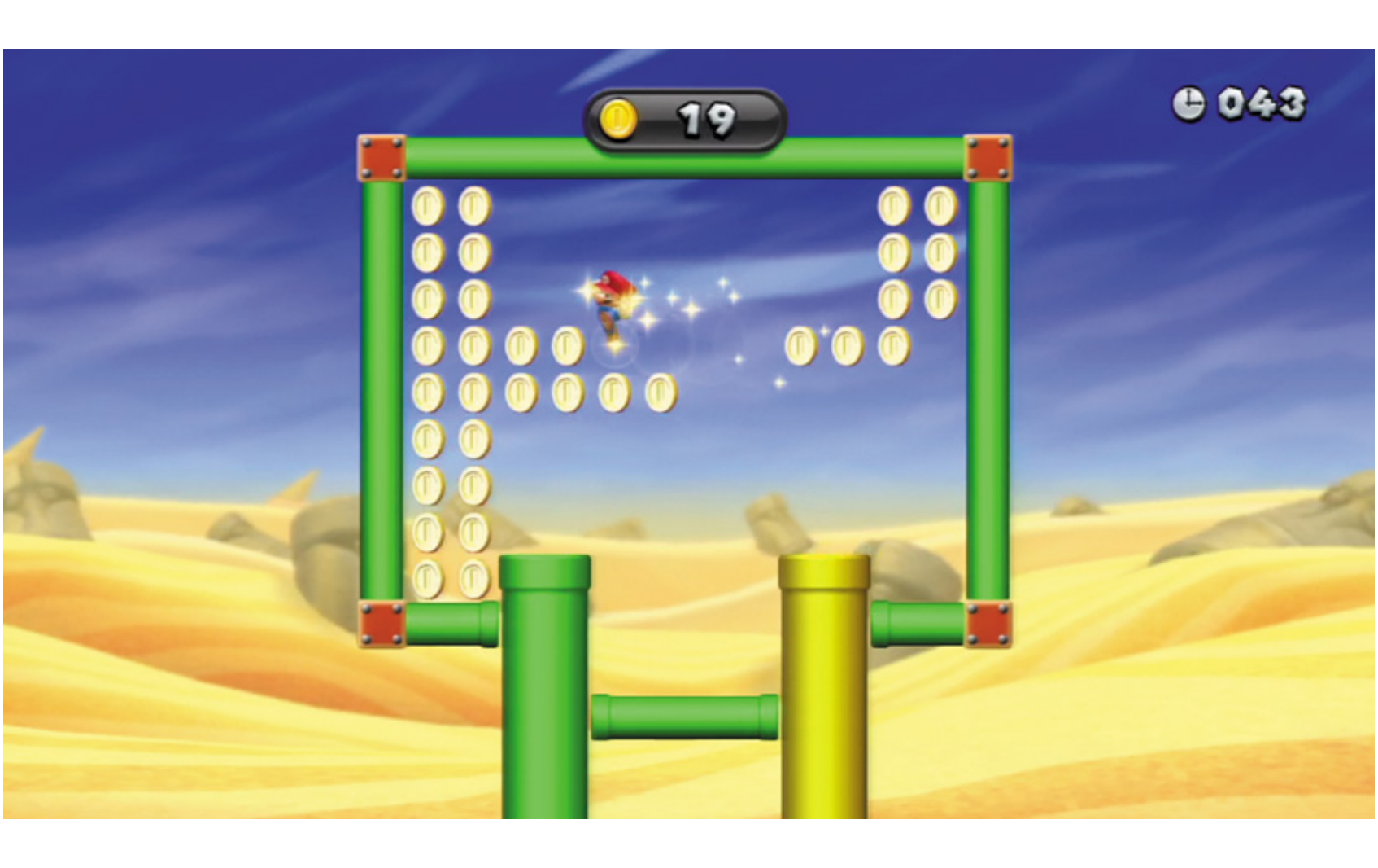
Caution

Though your objective usually involves collecting Coins in these Challenges, you must also be aware of your time limit. You've got to reach the goal before time expires!

Hot Hidden-Coin Hunt

Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Hit the P Switch, and collect the Coins. The Challenge ends when the P Switch's effect ends.



This swift Challenge asks you to collect at least 46 Coins as quickly as possible. Hit the central P Switch, then quickly wall jump up and grab all of those Coins! The Challenge ends when the P Switch's effect wears off, so just keep jumping around until at least 46 Coins are yours.

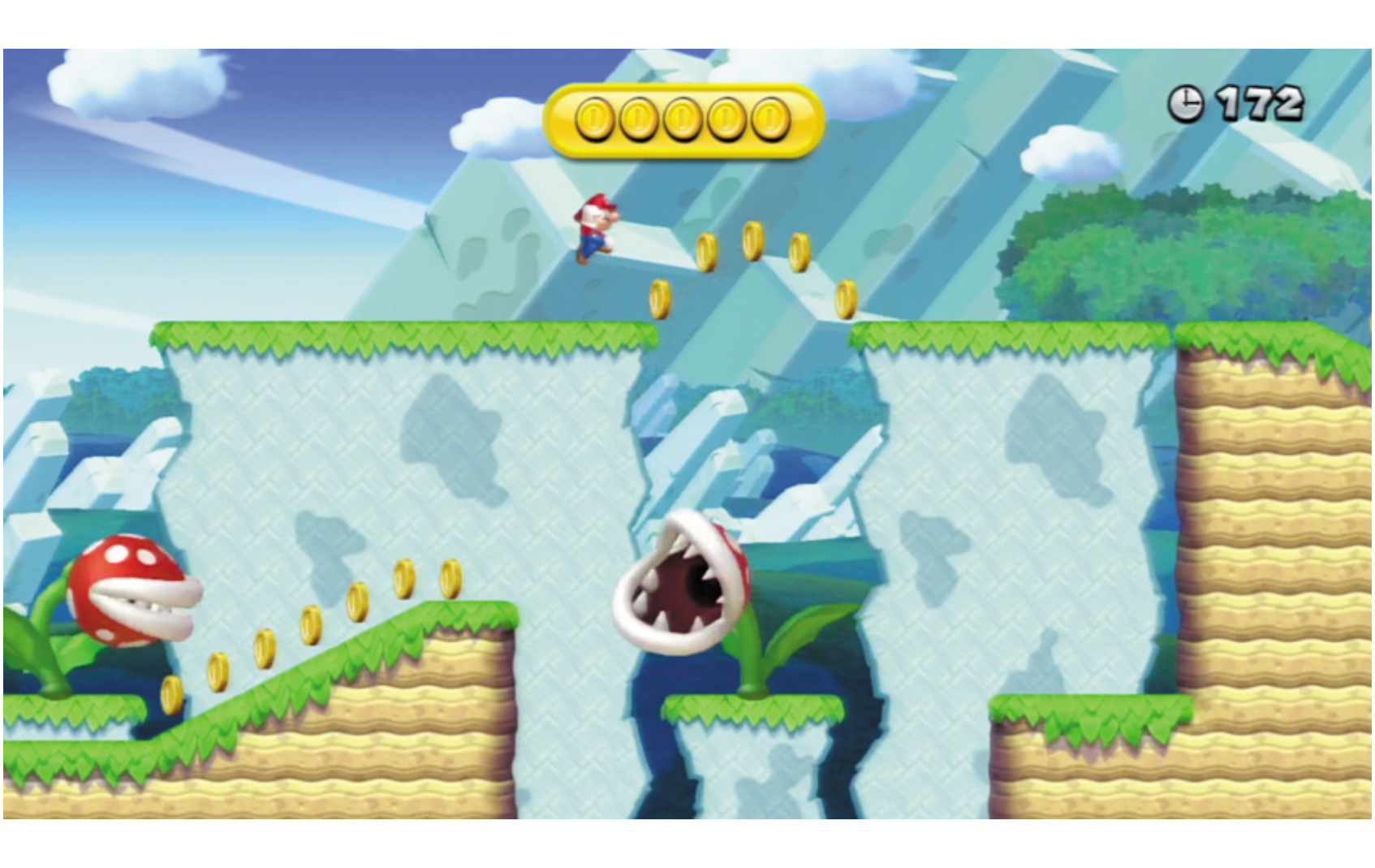
Tip

Wall jump up to the corners of the Challenge area, then drop straight down to quickly collect the majority of the Coins!

Stingy Big Piranha Plants

Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring, collecting as few Coins as possible. The Challenge ends if you collect six or more Coins.

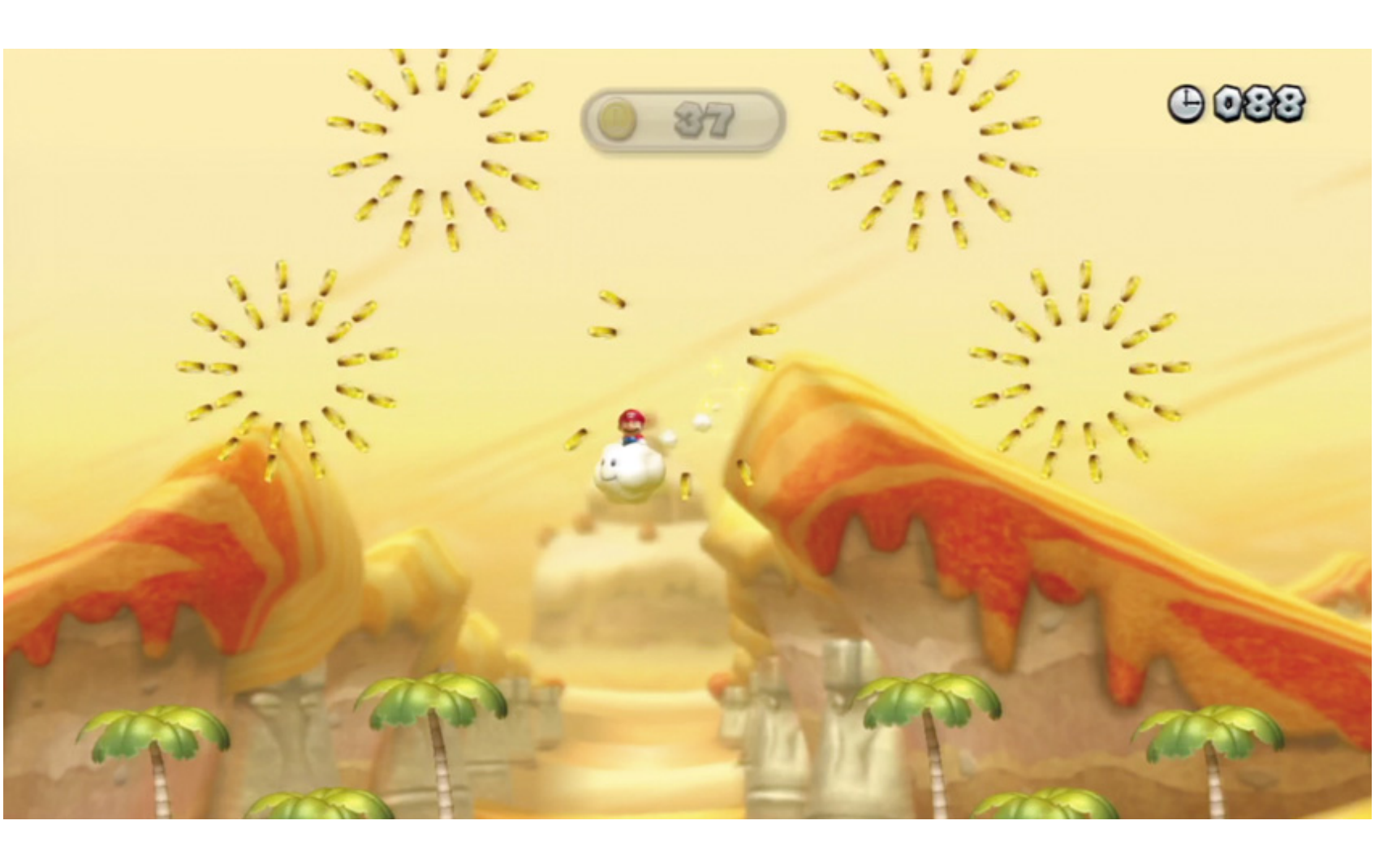


This Challenge puts a twist on the Coin Collection concept—this time, you must avoid Coins as you speed through the stage. You've got plenty of time to work with, so take it nice and slow whenever Coins are nearby, and wait for your chance to maneuver past them. Make shorter jumps to pass underneath Coins in some cases, and be sure you don't bump any ? Blocks—for once, you don't want their Coins!

Lakitu's Cloud Heist

Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Commandeer Lakitu's cloud, and use it to collect Coins.

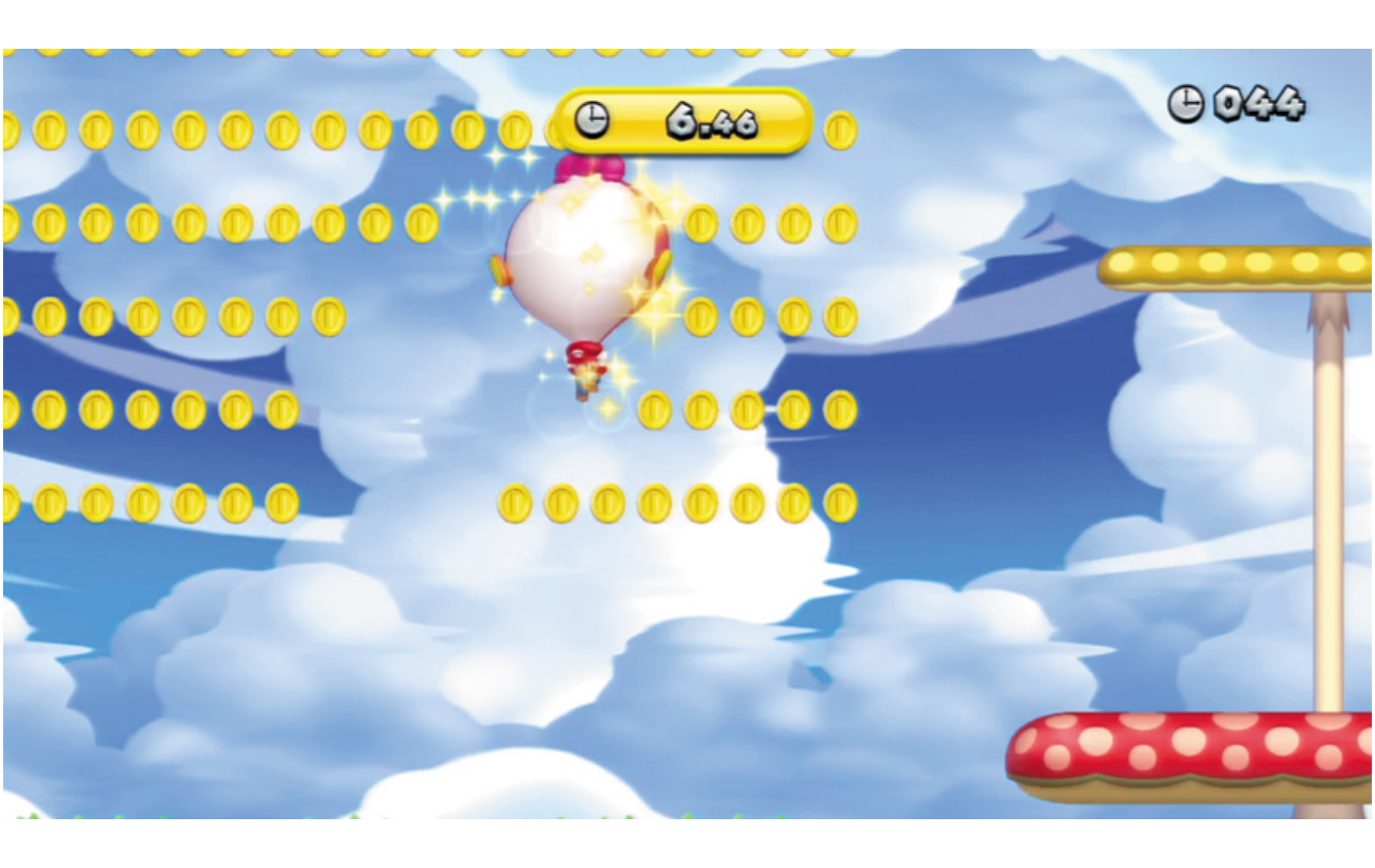


Jump onto a palm tree at the start of this Challenge, then leap up and stomp Lakitu so that you may steal his Cloud. The Challenge ends when Lakitu's cloud dissipates, so hurry up to those overhead Coin rings! Fly against the rotation of the Coins to collect them with greater speed, and try to float from one ring to the next, grabbing them all in one fluid motion.

Hot-Air Yoshi Ride

Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Collect all the Coins in 50.00 or less.

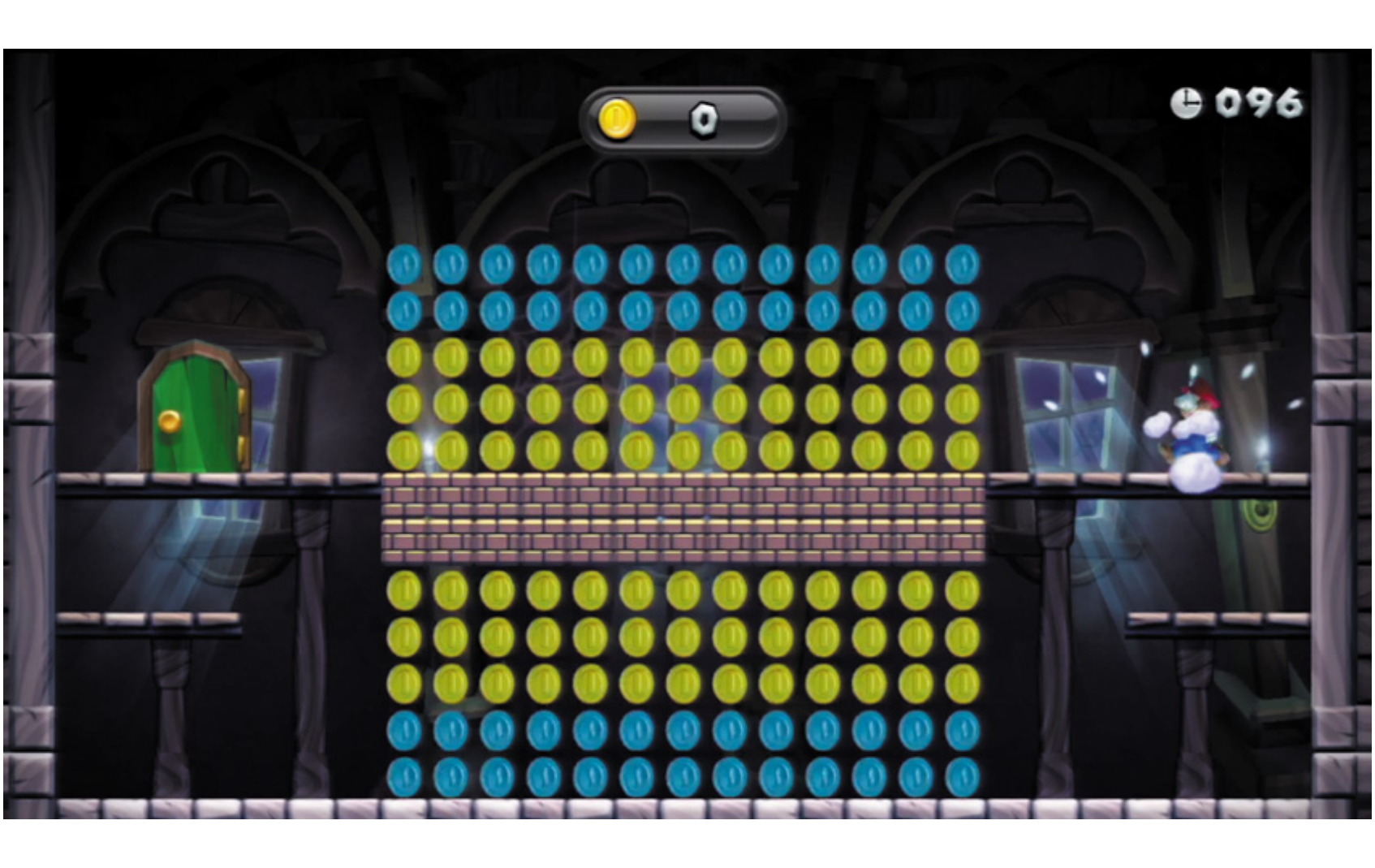


Use Balloon Baby Yoshi to collect a host of floating Coins in this swift Challenge. You've got to collect all of the Coins, so speed is the key here. Quickly float from one side to the other, aiming to snatch up three rows of Coins with each pass.

Ghost House Coin Curse

Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Collect as many Coins as you can. The Challenge ends when there are no Coins left.

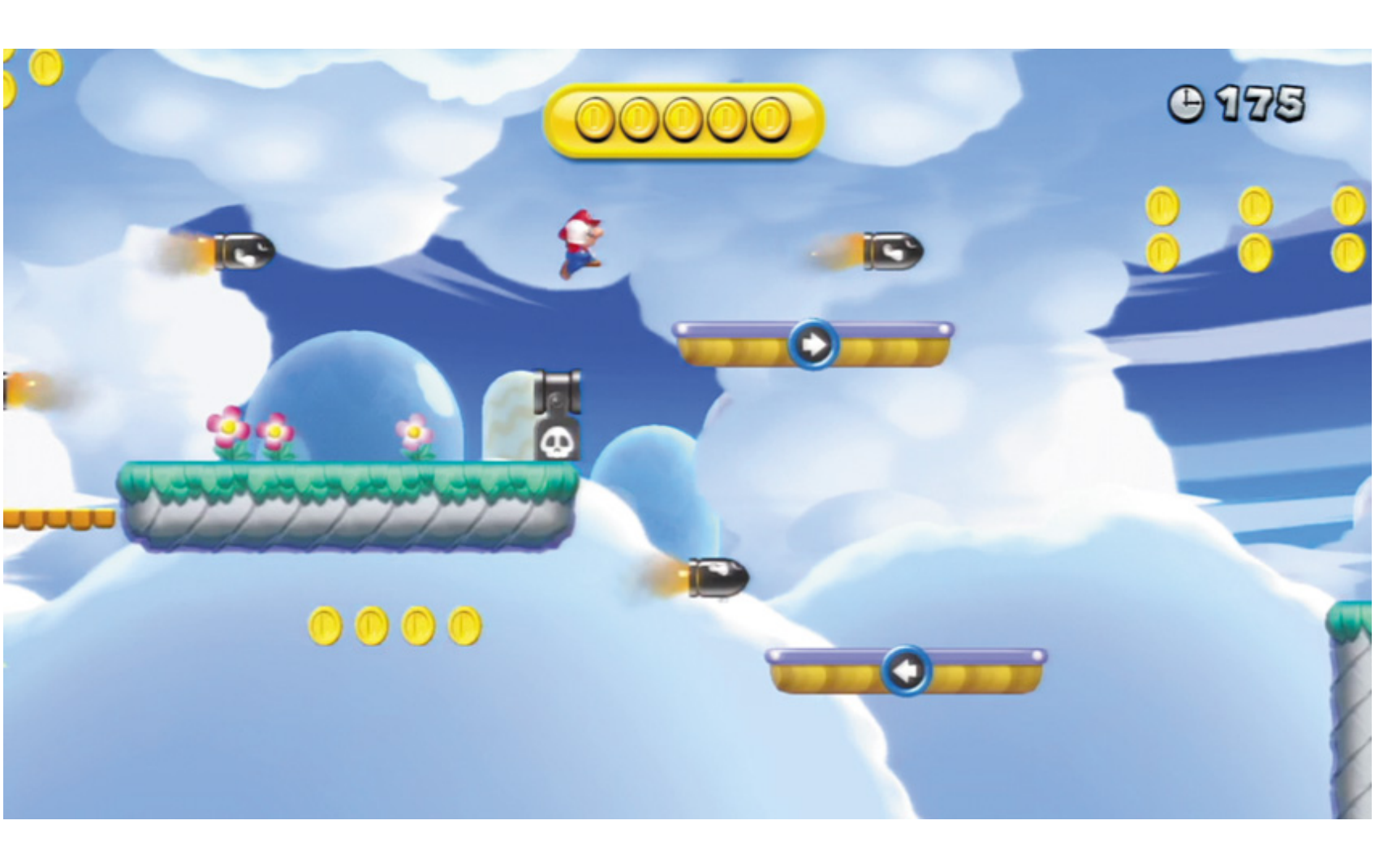


With the aid of a P Switch, you must collect at least 135 Coins to clear this Challenge. Jump over and hit the P Switch, then quickly collect all of the top Coins. Ground pound through the central Brick Blocks afterward and grab all of the Coins below before the P Switch's effect wears off. Then, simply snatch up the middle Coins to ensure that you get to 135!

Perilous Coin Dodge

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring, collecting as few Coins as possible. The Challenge ends if you collect six or more Coins.

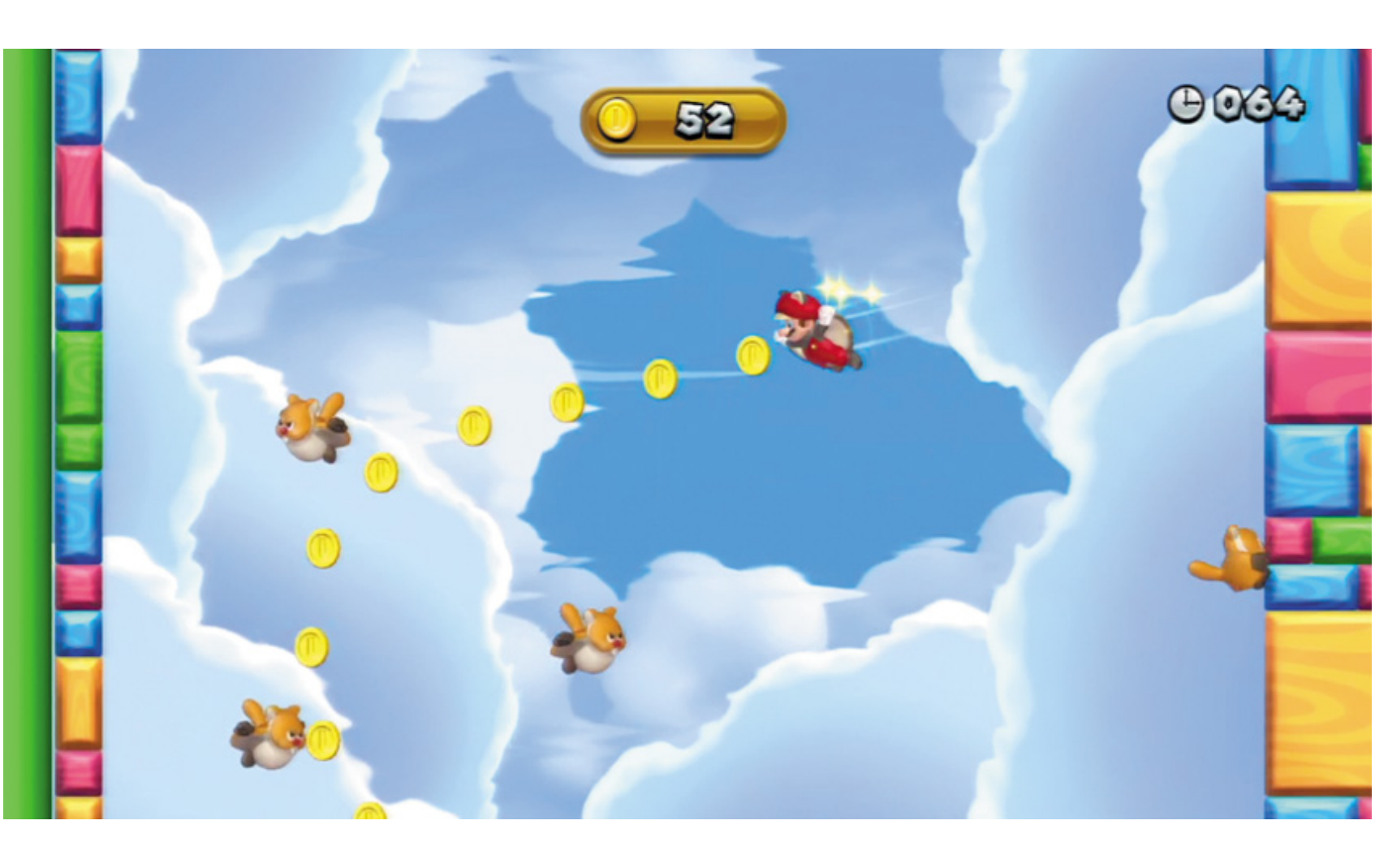


Here's another tricky Challenge that asks you to avoid collecting Coins as you make your way toward the goal. Use short hops or spin jumps to slip beneath the curved Coins that often get in your way, such as the very first four Coins you encounter. Bouncing off Bullet Bills can also help you avoid Coins, especially toward the end. Take your time and keep the midair spin trick in mind as you steadily make your way through the stage.

Waddlewing Wipeout

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Defeat every Waddlewing and collect at least 40 Coins. The Challenge ends if you touch the ground before you defeat all of the Waddlewings.

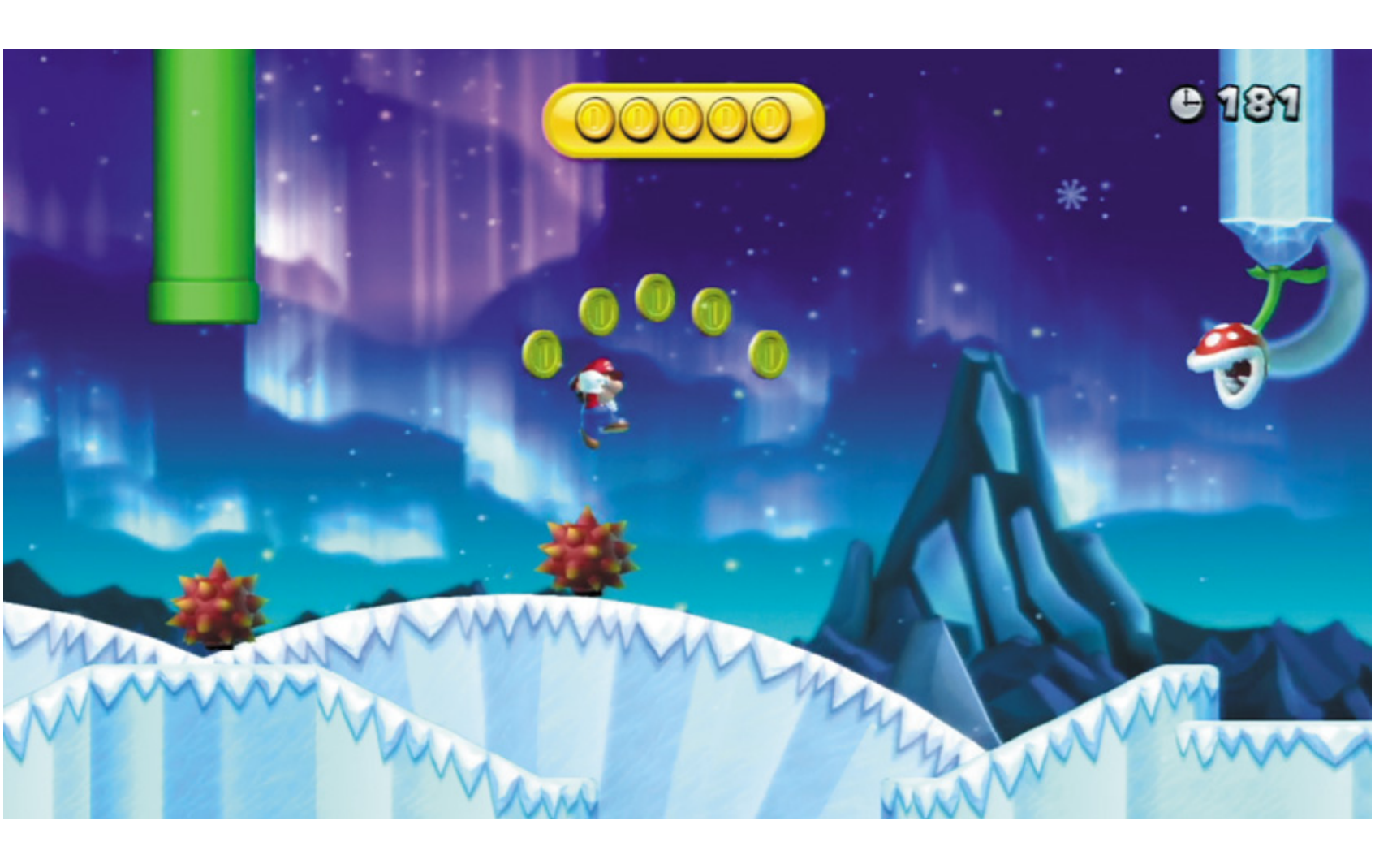


As Flying Squirrel Mario, glide back and fourth as you descend in this colorful area, collecting as many Coins as you can. Of course, it's more important that you stomp every Waddlewing on your way down, so don't worry if you miss a few Coins here and there. You can always bounce off the next Waddlewing to gain some extra height and try for any Coins you may have missed!

Prickly Goomba's Coinless Run

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Reach the goal, collecting as few Coins as possible. The Challenge ends if you collect six or more Coins.

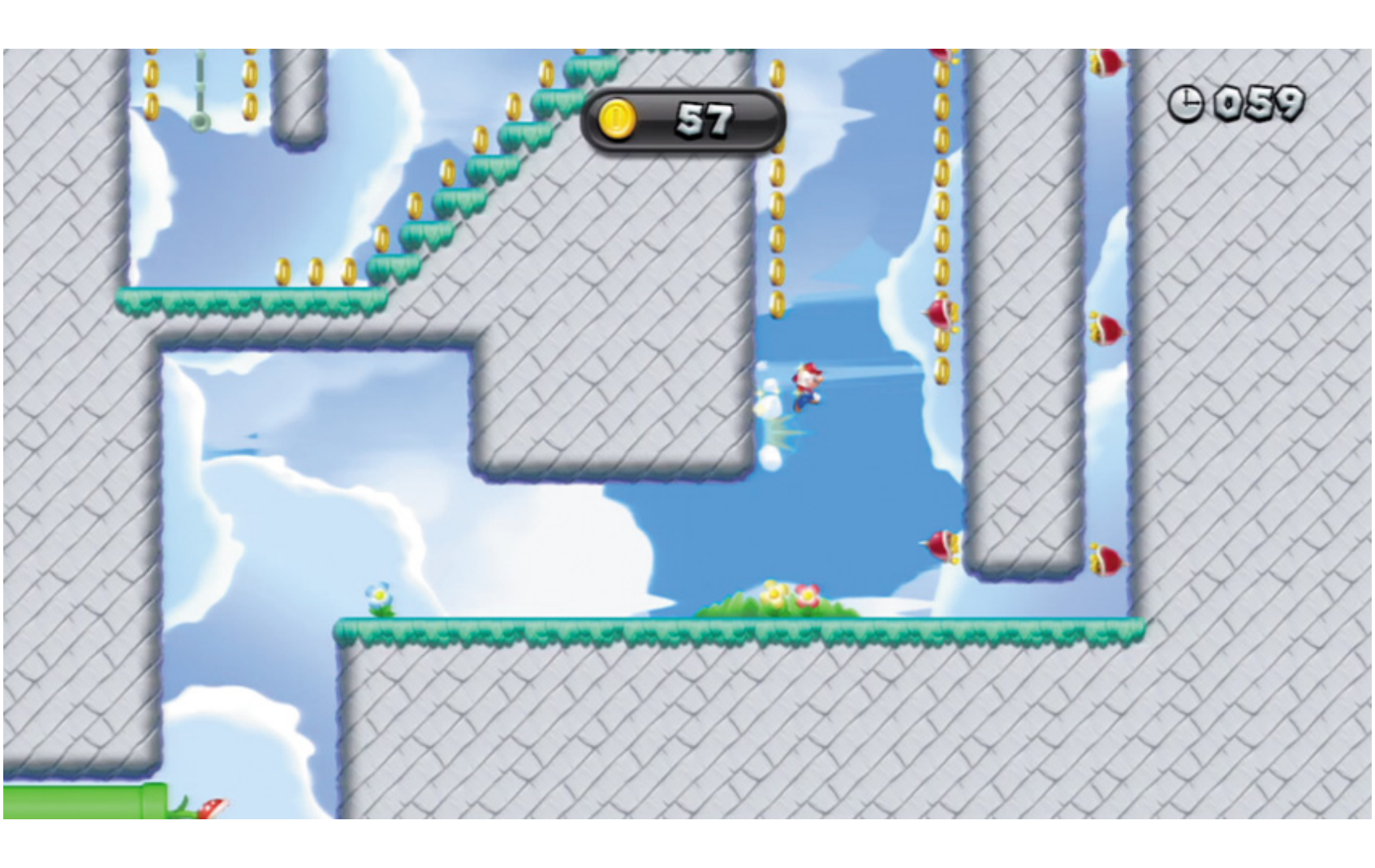


This Coinless Run is the toughest one yet! Perform short spin jumps as you've done before to slip beneath the lower-hanging Coins. At certain points, it's helpful to allow the Fire Piranha Plants to burn away the Prickly Goombas' outer shell so you may bounce off the Goombas and bound past other Coins.

200 Clifftop Coins

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Collect as many Coins as you can and reach the goal.



Wall jump your way up this vertical stage, grabbing as many Coins as possible. Be careful to avoid the Piranha Plants, Spike Tops, and Fuzzies as you go. You need at least 160 Coins, so slide down the walls and grab any Coins you may have skipped. Just don't waste too much time going back for loose Coins, or you'll never reach the goal!

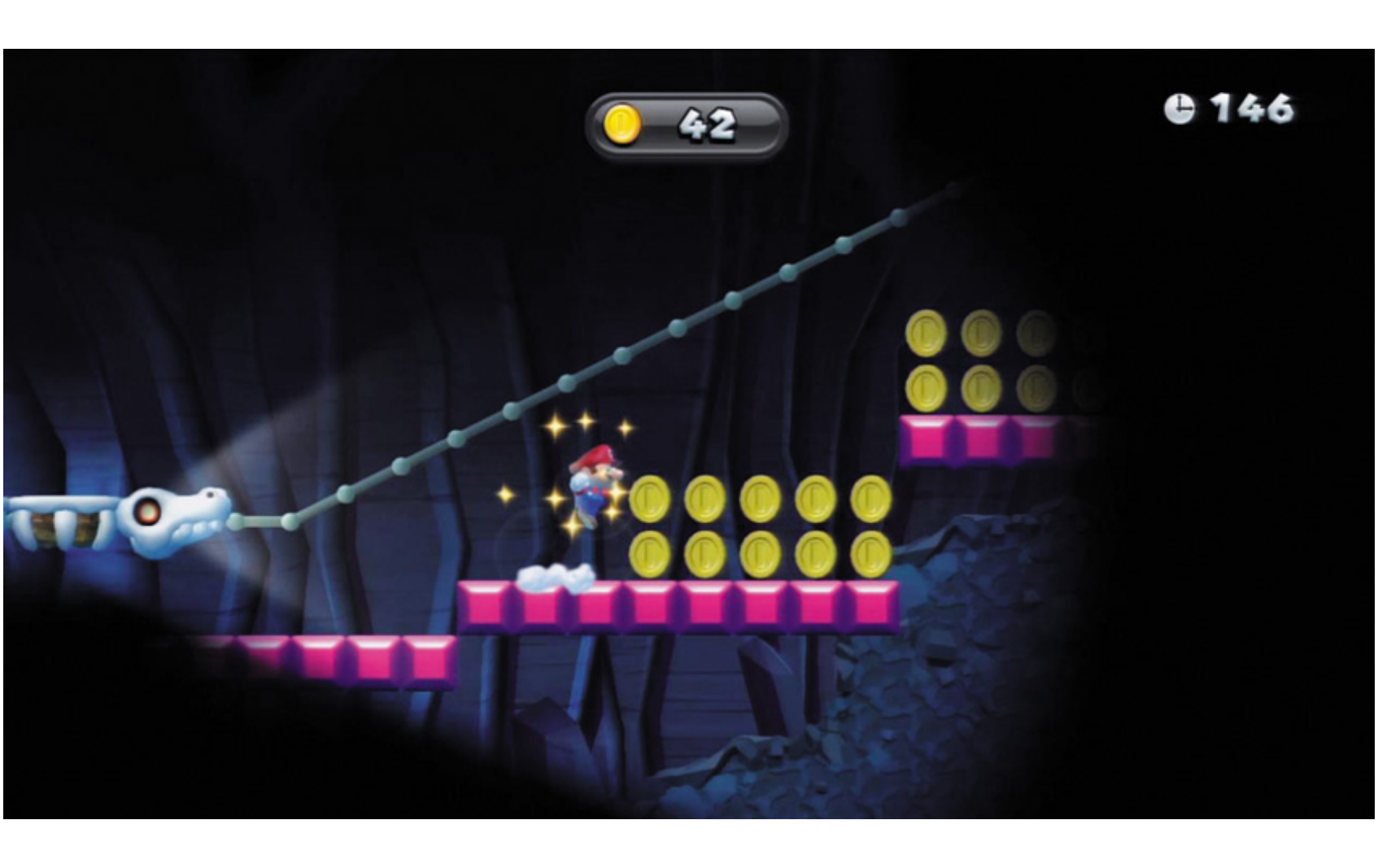
Tip

If you're having trouble timing your wall jumps, try waiting until you see Mario grab onto the wall before making your jump.

Dark Dark Coaster

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Collect as many Coins as you can and reach the goal.

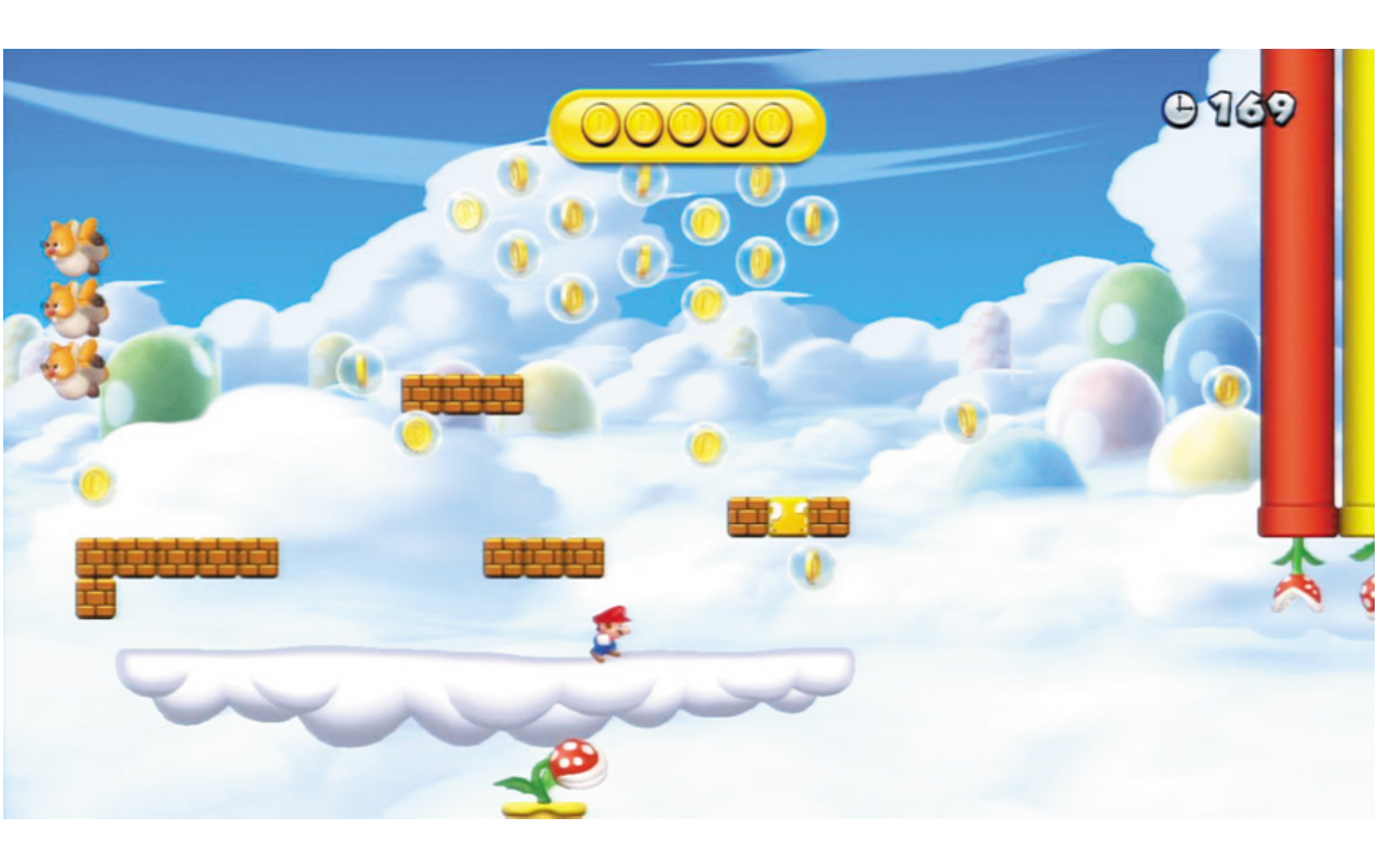


You must grab at least 150 Coins as you ride the Spine Coaster around this shadowy stage. Hit the Red Ring to make extra Red Coins appear, and be sure to hit the overhead ? Switch beyond so that you may collect many more vital Coins. Try to hit the ? Blocks you see to obtain Super Stars as well—the stage will be illuminated while Mario has Star power, which helps you see those precious Coins coming!

Cloud Top Coin Evasion

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Reach the goal, collecting as few Coins as possible. The Challenge ends if you collect six or more Coins.

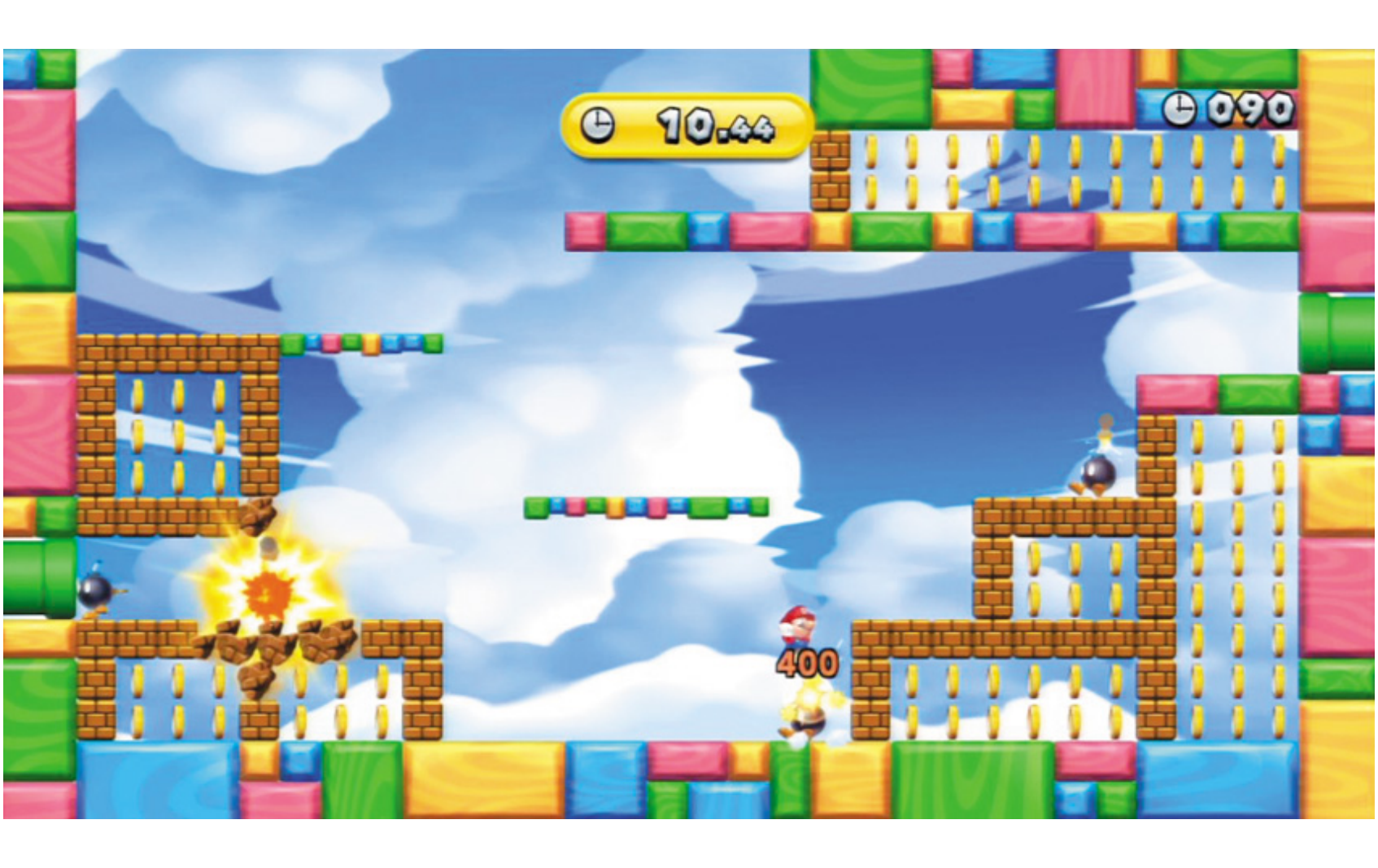


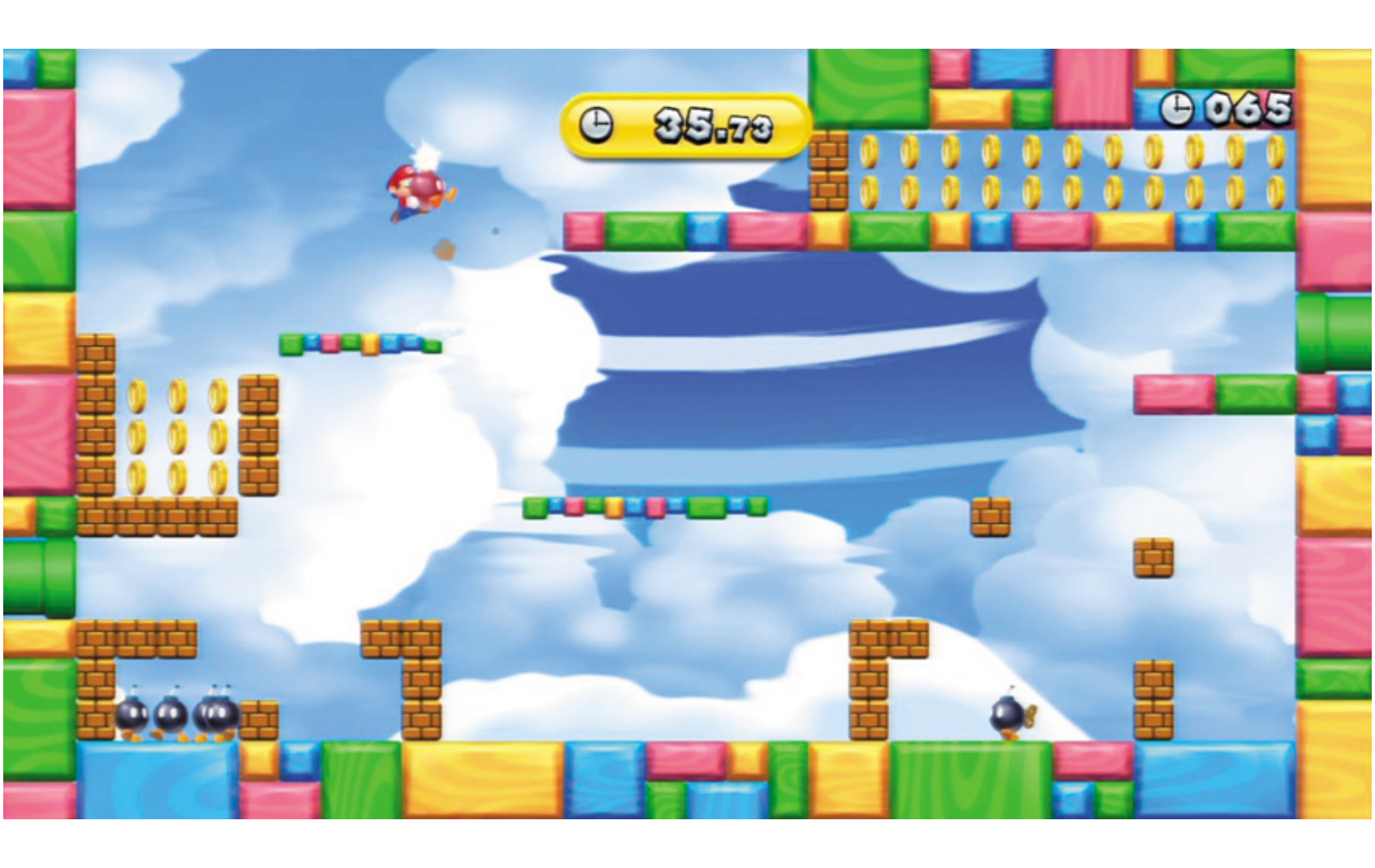
Patience and spin jumps are your two best friends in this trying Challenge, for many floating Coins must be avoided. Take it nice and easy, and allow the Coins to drift away, or wait for Brick Blocks to appear that can help you slip past them. You don't want to stray too far from the Cloud Lift, but you've got to slow down at times if you wish to slip past all the Coins on your way to the finish.

Attack of the Bob-ombs

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Collect the Coins in 100.00 or less.





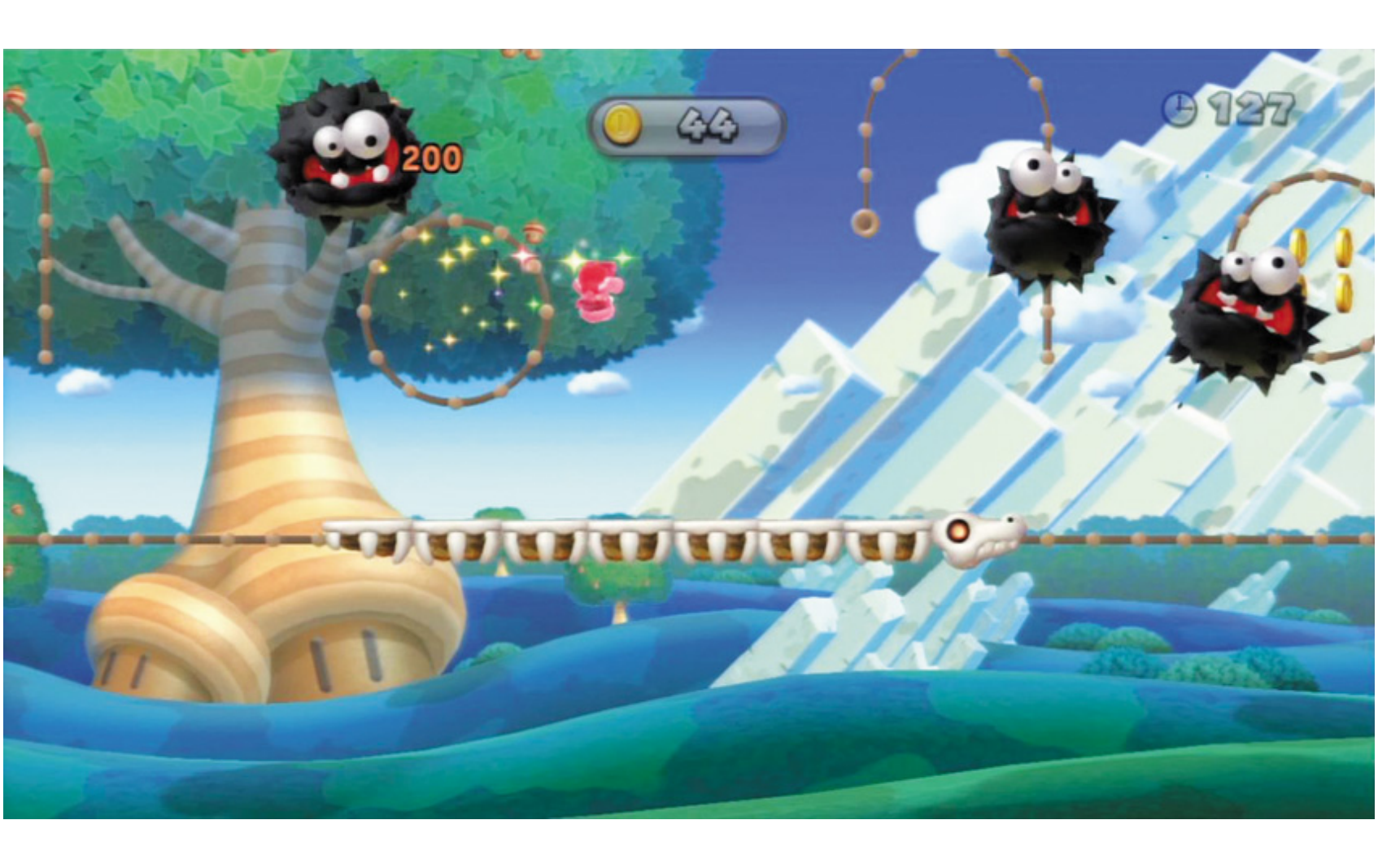
There are many ways to use the Bob-ombs to your advantage and collect all of the Coins on this tricky stage. Here's one method:

- Hurry and stun the first Bob-omb on the left so that when it explodes, it destroys enough Brick Blocks to allow you access to all of the lower-left Coins.
- Don't wait around for that first Bob-omb to erupt. Instead, leap over and stun the second Bob-omb on the right, so that it will explode near the top of the right Brick Blocks.
- Again, don't wait for the Bob-omb to blow. Instead, drop and stun the lower Bob-omb on the right, then quickly toss it up onto the upper-left Brick Blocks.
- Now go after the lower-left Coins, followed by all the Coins you can reach on the right.
- As you collect the Coins on the right, stun the Bob-ombs that are piling up nearby. Wait for these Bob-ombs to erupt, then collect the remainder of the Coins on the right (except for the ones way up high).
- Stun the nearest Bob-omb next, and toss it up close to the top-right Brick Blocks.
- Collect the upper-left Coins as you wait for the final Bob-omb to explode, then leap up to the final row of Coins up high on the right. Whew!

Spine Coaster Coin Cruise

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Collect as many Coins as you can, and reach the goal.

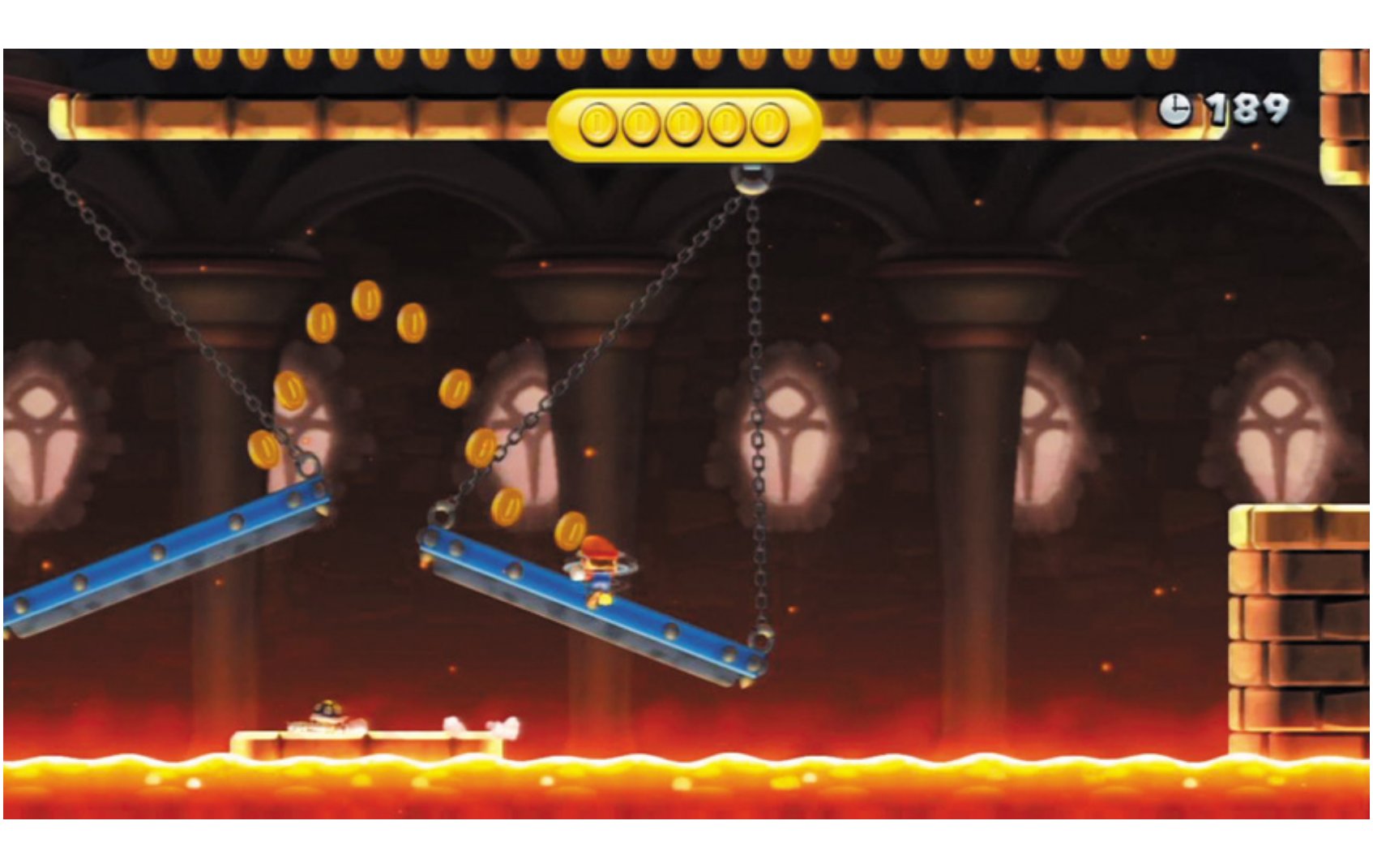


Here's another Spine Coaster ride in which your goal is to collect at least 120 Coins. Grab the first few Coins, and go ahead and claim the Super Mushroom from the ? Block as well—you'll need it! Snag more Coins as you ride the Spine Coaster, allowing certain Coins to float up into an easier position for collection. If you can, try to collect the Fire Flower and Super Star from the ? Blocks that follow—you'll then be able to defeat Fuzzies and collect the Coins they guard. You also score a Coin each time you defeat a Fuzzy with fireballs, so fry all that you can!

Castle Coin Bypass

Difficulty:	★★★★★

- Objective: Reach the goal, collecting as few Coins as possible. The Challenge ends if you collect six or more Coins.

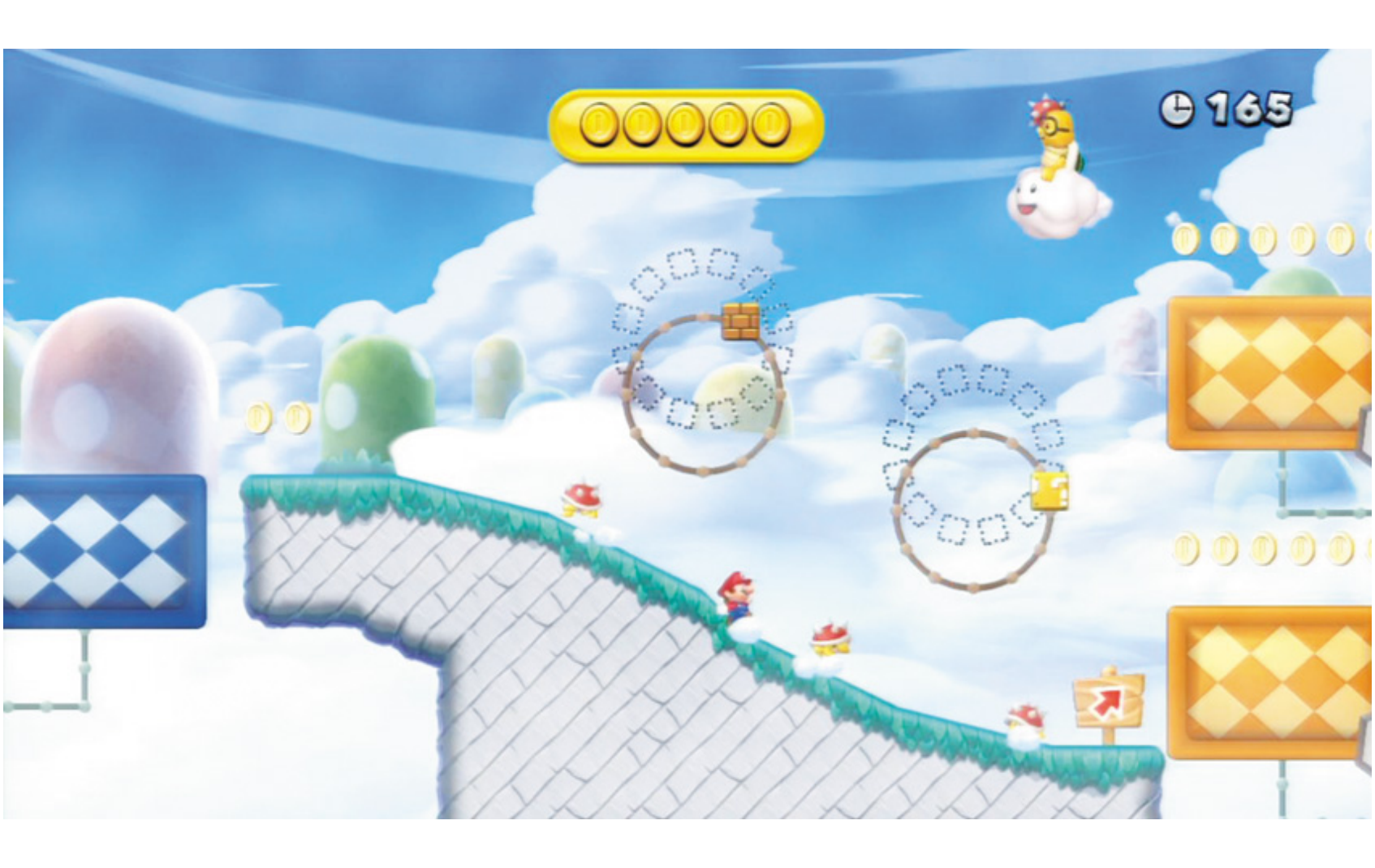


This difficult Challenge asks you to maneuver through a treacherous, lava-filled castle without collecting too many Coins. You'll need to be creative here, using tiny spin jumps to slip under Coins, as well as midair spins that extend your longer jumps over Coin clusters. Take your time near swinging platforms and wait for them to move into ideal positions before making your moves. Spinning is the secret to success here!

Don't. Touch. Anything.

Difficulty:	★★★★★

- Objective: Reach the goal, but don't hurt enemies or collect Coins! The Challenge ends if you collect six or more Coins.



The final Coin Collection is a skill-stretching Challenge in which you must navigate a lengthy stage without harming any enemies or collecting too many Coins. This Challenge becomes increasingly chaotic when Lakitu arrives and begins raining enemies down on you. Use spins as needed to help you slip past each threat and avoid every Coin on your way toward the remote goal!

Tip

Remember that Small Mario can run underneath floating rows of Coins!

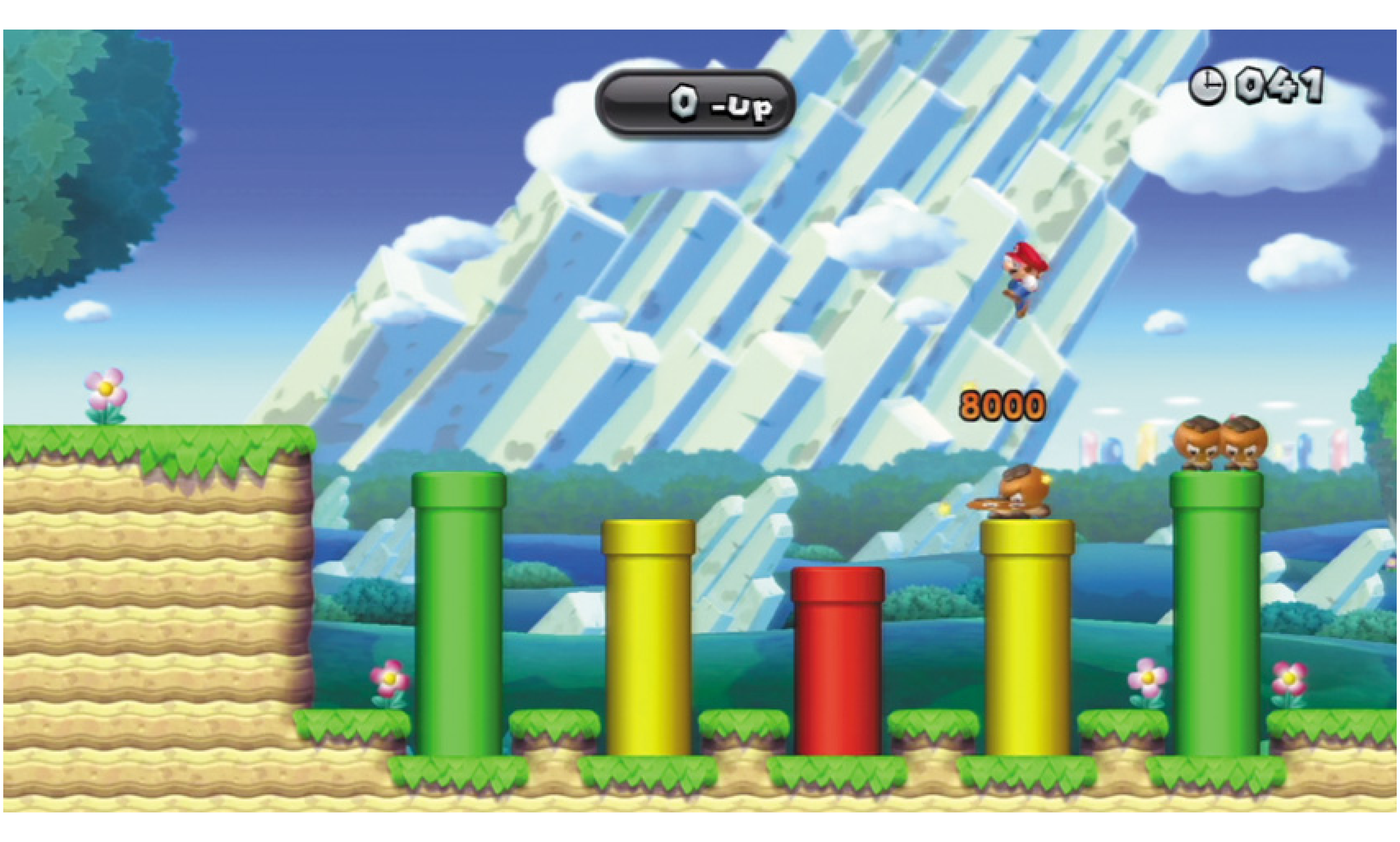
Extra Modes

Challenges: 1-Up Rally

The Goombrat Stomp

Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Jump on the Goombrats without touching the ground to earn 1-Ups.

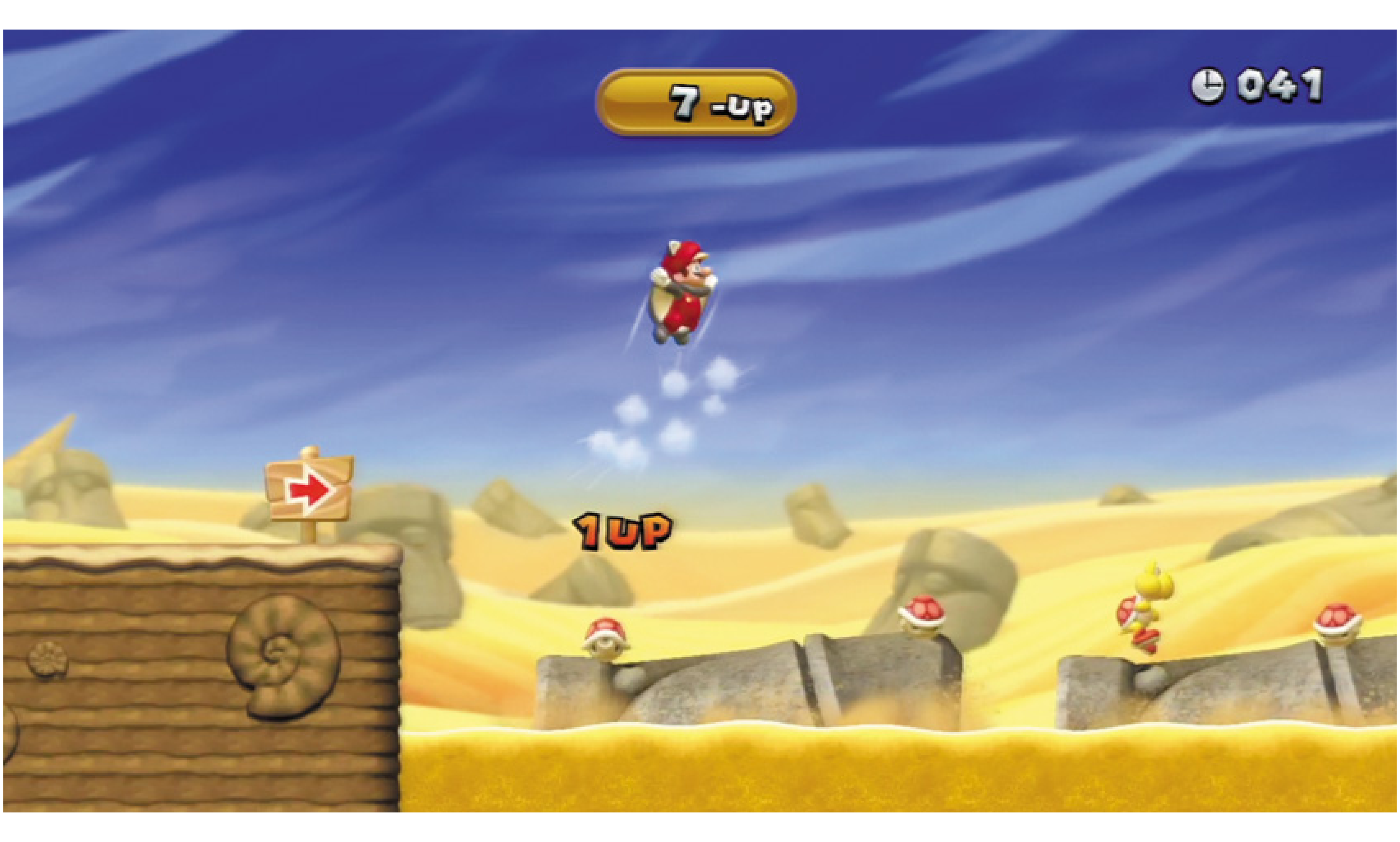


1-Up Rallies test your ability to earn 1-Ups in unique and creative ways. The first Challenge is easy and fun—simply hold the jump button as you stomp the Goombrats, bouncing off each foe and stomping the next one in line. Keep it up until you score at least one 1-Up, and you'll complete this easy Challenge. Stomp all of the Goombrats without touching the ground to score the Gold!

Stone-Eye Koopas

Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Jump on enemies without touching the ground to earn 1-Ups.



More space between the enemies makes matters more challenging in the second 1-Up Rally. Fortunately, you have the aid of Flying Squirrel Mario in this Challenge. As before, hold the jump button to bounce off the enemies—they're Koopas this time. Glide and perform flying squirrel jumps as needed to maintain loft as you look to land on the next Koopa. Don't defeat the Koopas, mind you—just stun them and then move on to the others. Allow the Koopas to recover, and you can keep on bouncing until time runs out!

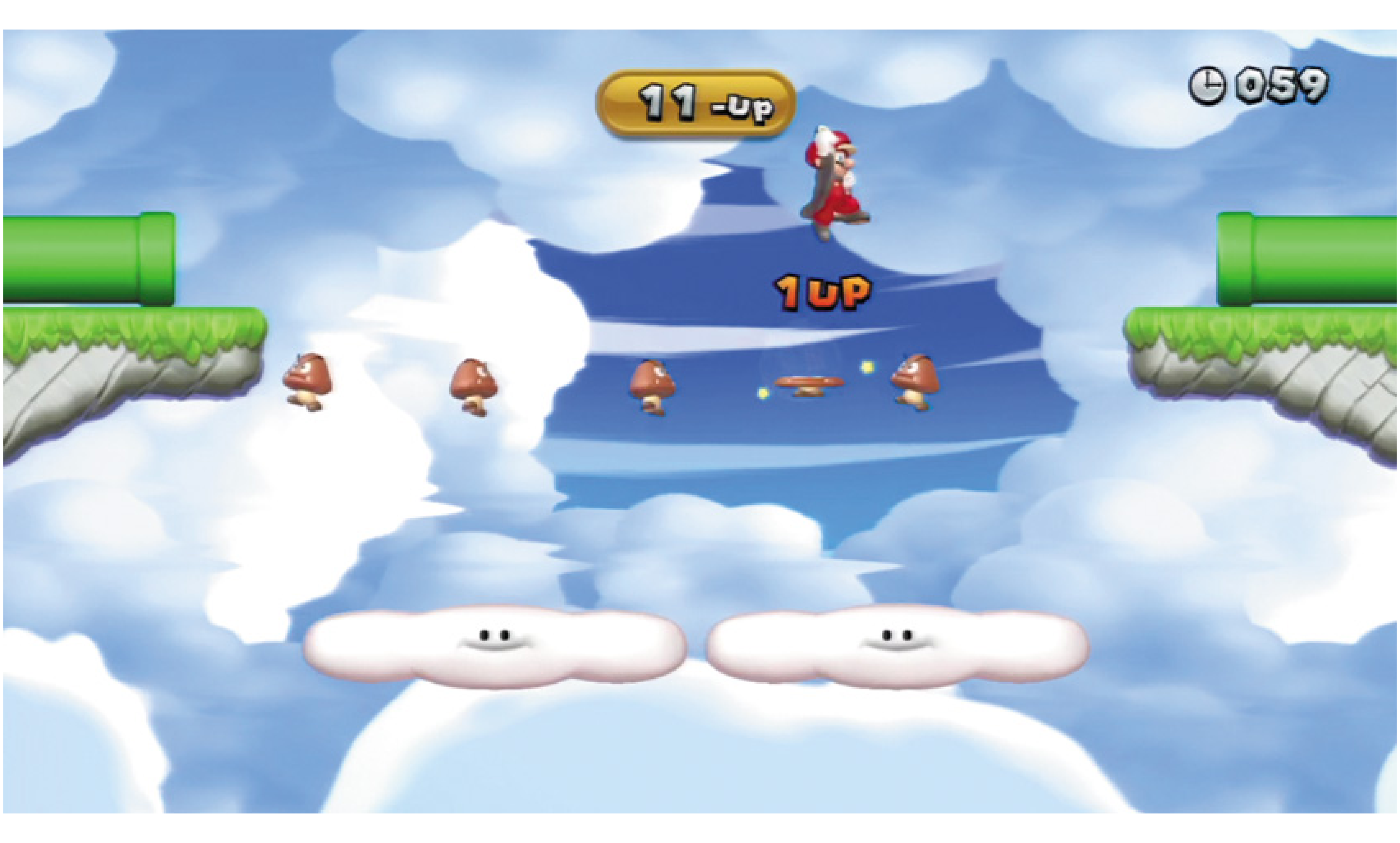
Tip

Don't abuse the flying squirrel jump when going for the Gold. Though useful, the move adds several seconds to your hang time—precious seconds that could be better spent stomping Koopas!

Goomba Bounce Bash

Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Jump on enemies without touching the ground to earn 1-Ups.

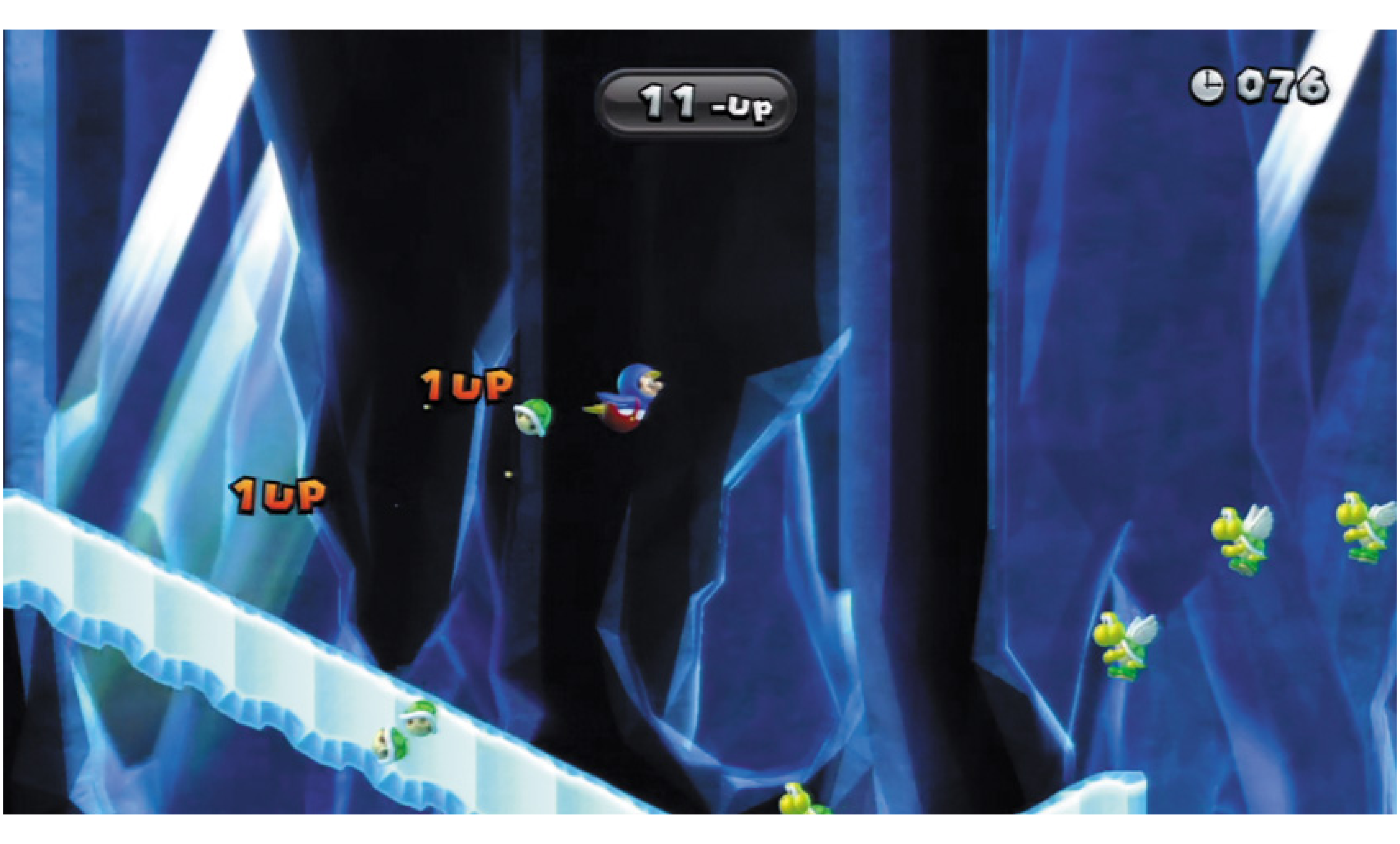


Stomp those Goombas as they bounce off the Bouncy Clouds in this event, gliding and using flying squirrel jumps as needed to keep your combo going. Even if you're hit and lose your Flying Squirrel form, you can still bounce off the Goombas as Super Mario—just don't land, or your combo will be over!

Penguin Bowling

Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Slide across the ice, without stopping, and defeat enemies to earn 1-Ups.

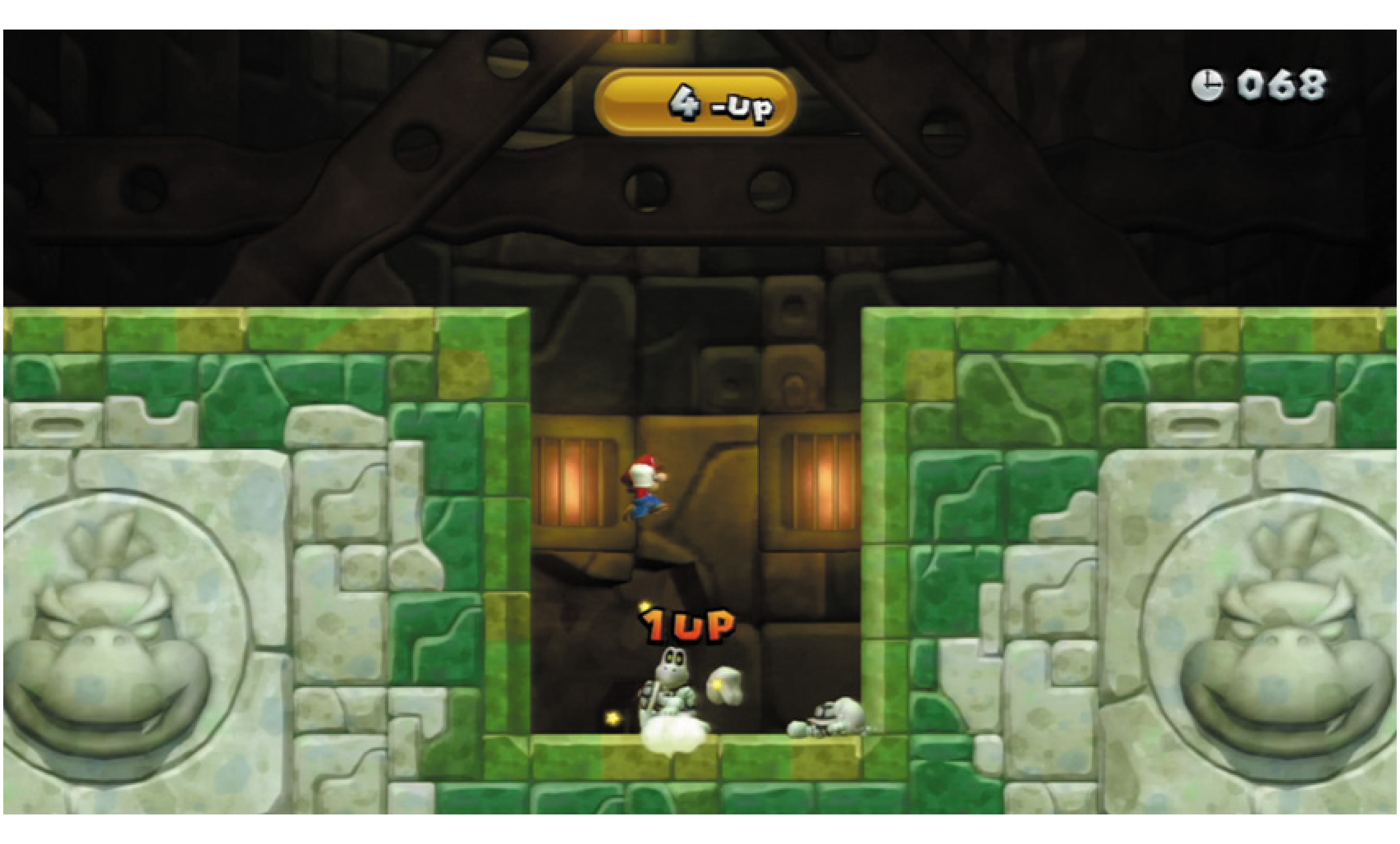


In this unique 1-Up Rally, you must keep your combo going strong as you slide through a swarm of enemies with Penguin Mario. Jump as needed to clear gaps and hit hovering enemies, such as Koopa Paratroopas—but watch out for falling Icicles! Try to hit every enemy and slide away with the Gold.

Three Dry Bones

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Jump on the enemies without touching the ground to earn 1-Ups!

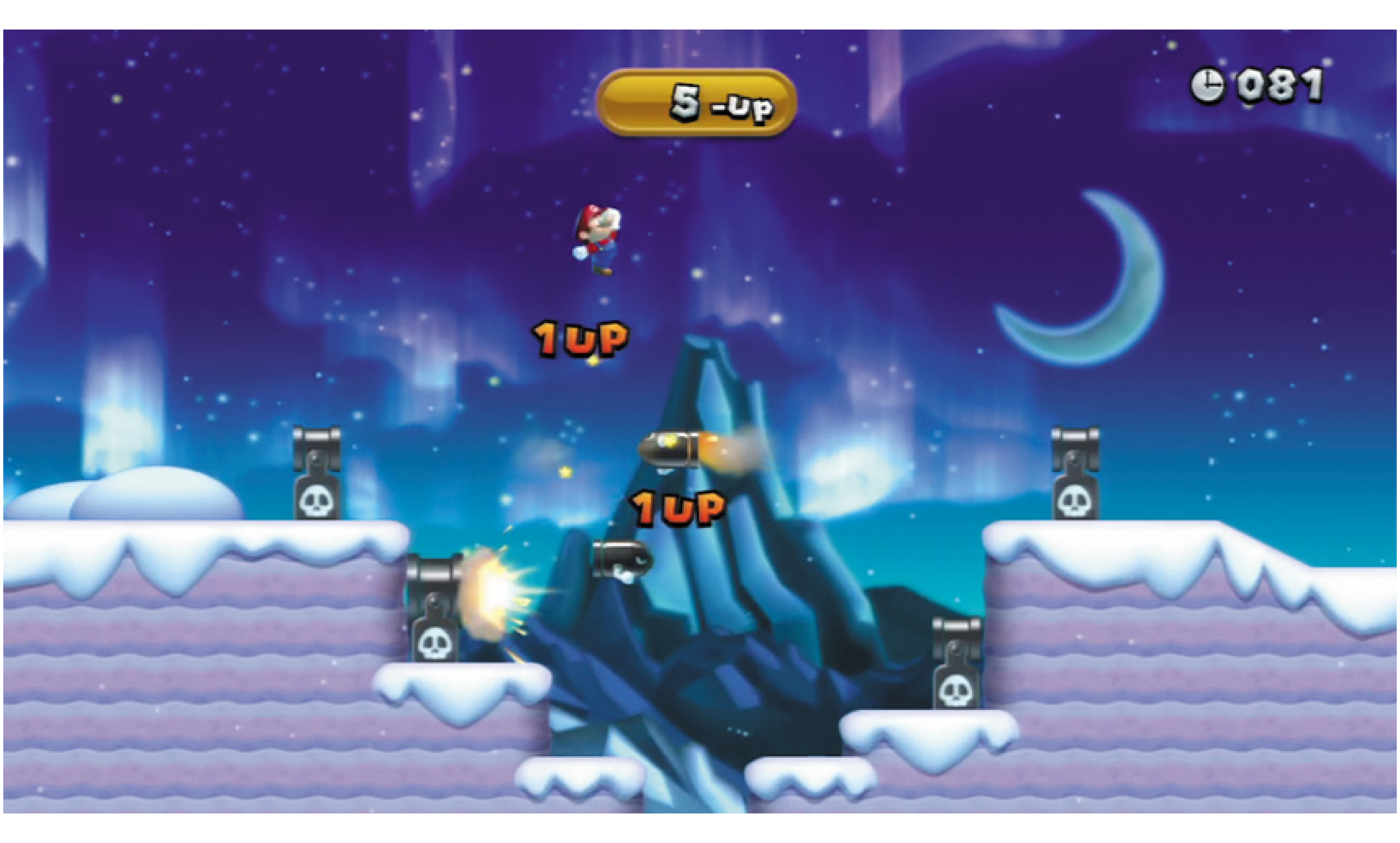


Keep your stomp combo going in this fun Challenge by stomping the three Dry Bones at the bottom of a pit. Wall jump while you wait for the Dry Bones to recover, or else you'll end up touching the ground. Perform midair spins to extend your wall jumps and ensure that you never fall.

Bullet Bill 1-Up Bounce

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Jump on enemies without touching the ground to earn 1-Ups.

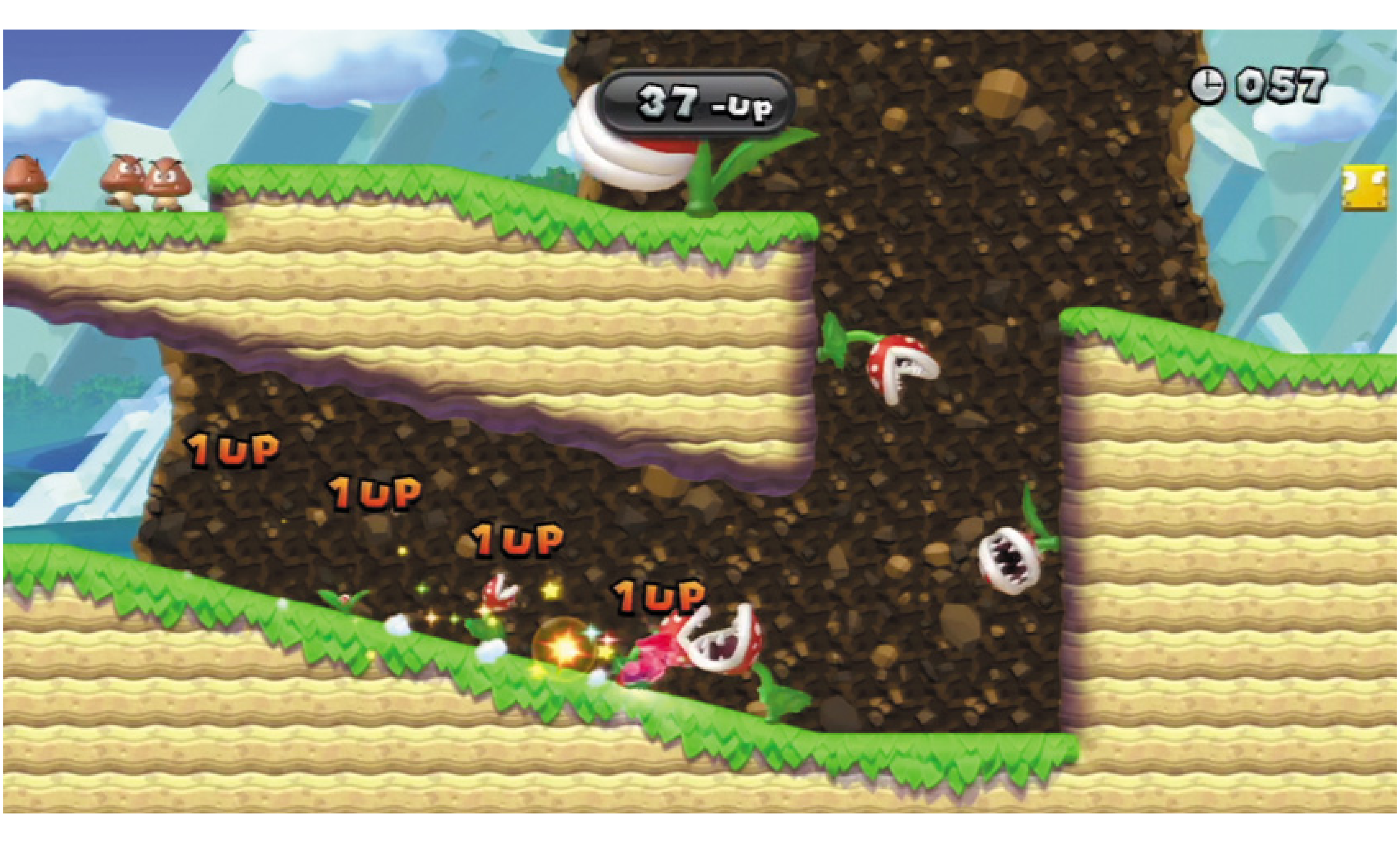


Allow the Bill Blasters to begin firing at the start of this Challenge, then begin bouncing off the Bullet Bills. Perform spins to gain extra height and maintain your combo while you wait for the next spread of Bullet Bills to blast forth. Be careful not to move too close to the Bill Blasters, or they might not fire when they should, and therefore fail to provide you with fodder for your combo.

Star Connection

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Topple enemies with consecutive Super Stars, and rack up the 1-Ups.

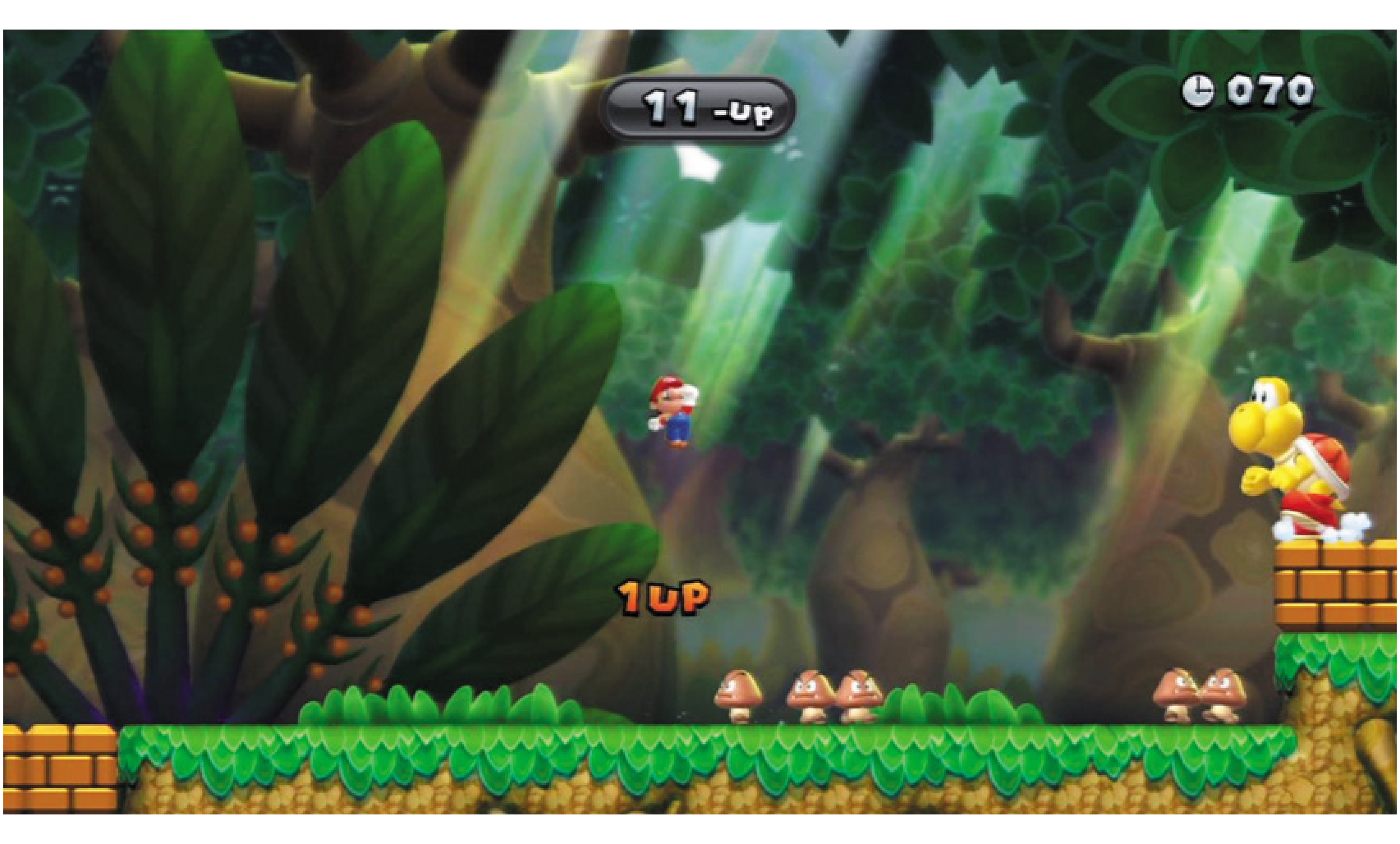


Obtain a Super Star from the ? Block at the start of this stage, then race through the level and defeat as many enemies as possible to score 1-Ups. You need at least 60 1-Ups to clear this Challenge, and there isn't much time to earn them, so you've got to move quick! Make sure to hit other ? Blocks before your Star power runs out—the Challenge ends if your Star power fades!

Big Goomba Bounce Bash

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Jump on enemies without touching the ground to earn 1-Ups.



This Challenge may seem familiar because it's also a good way to earn 1-Ups in Story Mode! To clear this event, you need to bounce off all of the Big Goombas, as well as the Heavy Goombas and regular Goombas that they split into. You can ignore the Koopas if you're only after the Bronze. Perform midair spins as needed to stay in control and ensure that you stomp each Goomba.

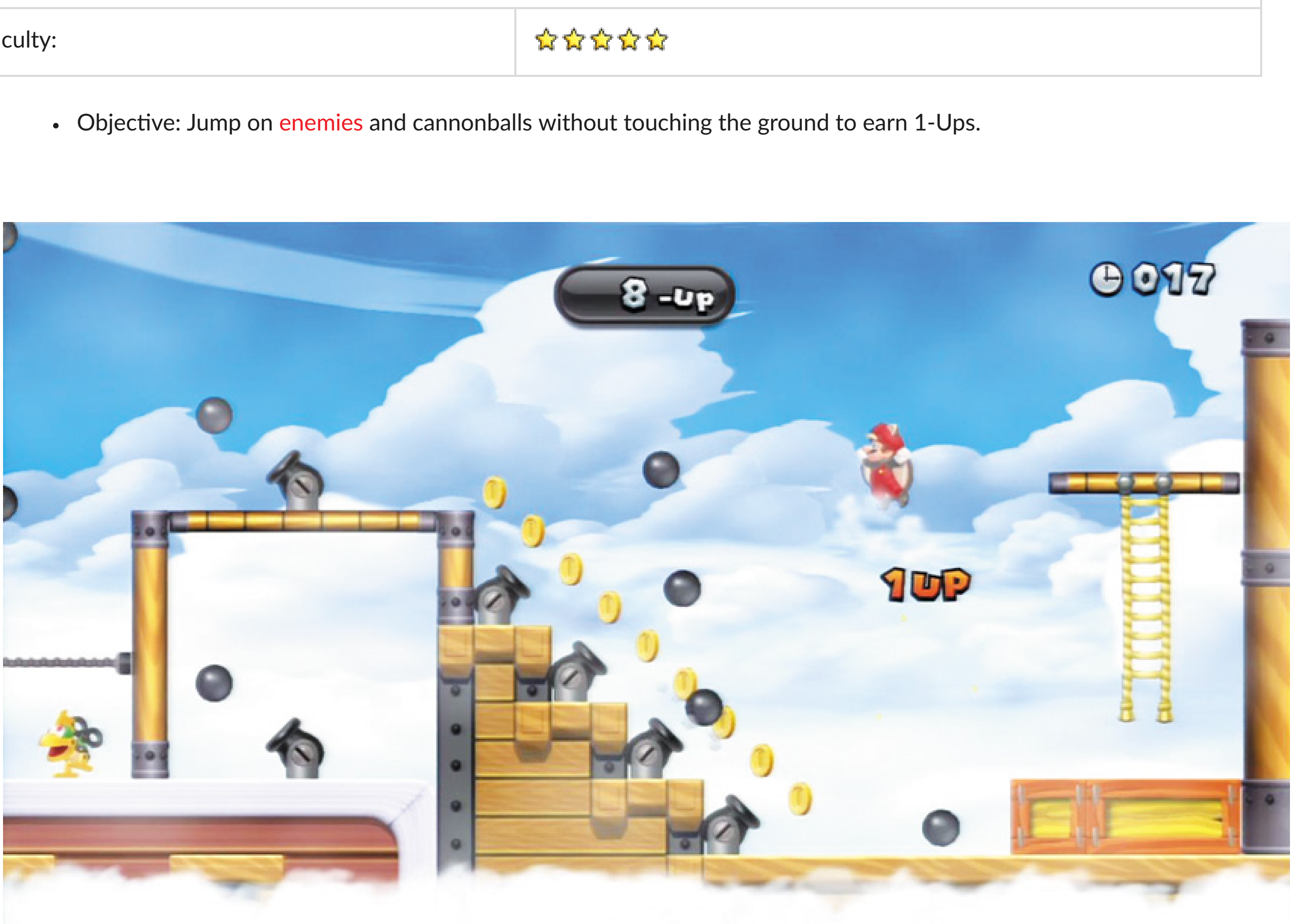
Tip

If you're going for the Gold, begin by leaping over the Big Goombas, stomping only the farthest Goomba on your way to the Big Koopas to the right. Stomp both Big Koopas, then perform midair spins after bouncing off the farthest Koopa to help you sail back over to the Goombas. Now stomp all of the Goombas, then bounce back over to the Big Koopas and stomp them both again to earn your eighteen 1-Ups!

Airship 1-Up Rally

Difficulty:	★★★★★

- Objective: Jump on enemies and cannonballs without touching the ground to earn 1-Ups.

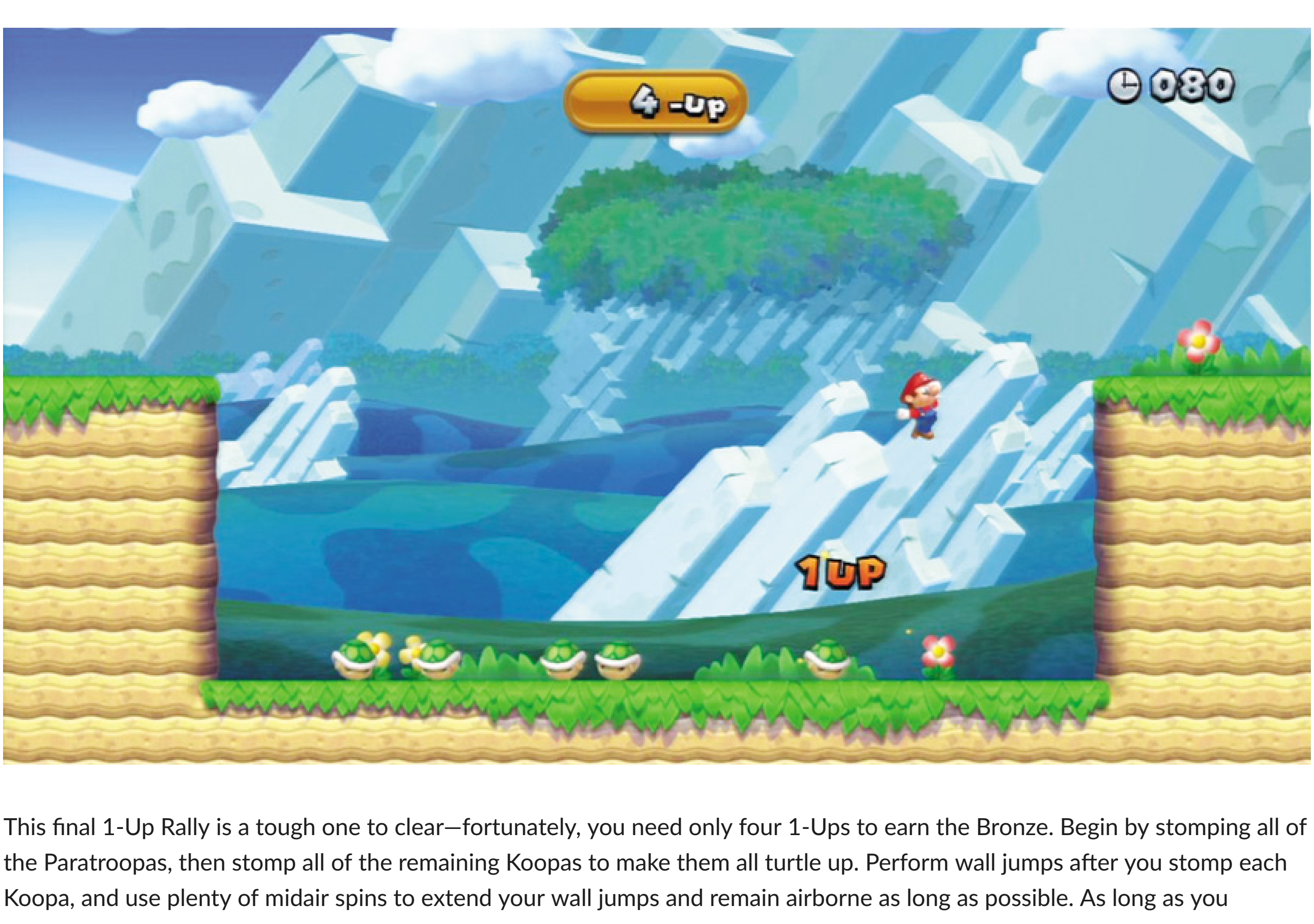


To score lots of 1-Ups on this Challenge, you need to take full advantage of the cannonballs. Begin by stomping the first cannonball, then stomp the nearby Mechakoopa. Perform a flying squirrel jump and stomp the second cannonball that's fired from the first cannon, then glide over to the right and use another flying squirrel jump to stomp the higher of the two cannonballs on the right. Stomp the lower cannonball next, then stomp another high cannonball after the top cannon fires again. Now glide farther to the right and stomp the many cannonballs that follow, using flying squirrel jumps as needed to keep from falling. You'll score plenty of 1-Ups in no time!

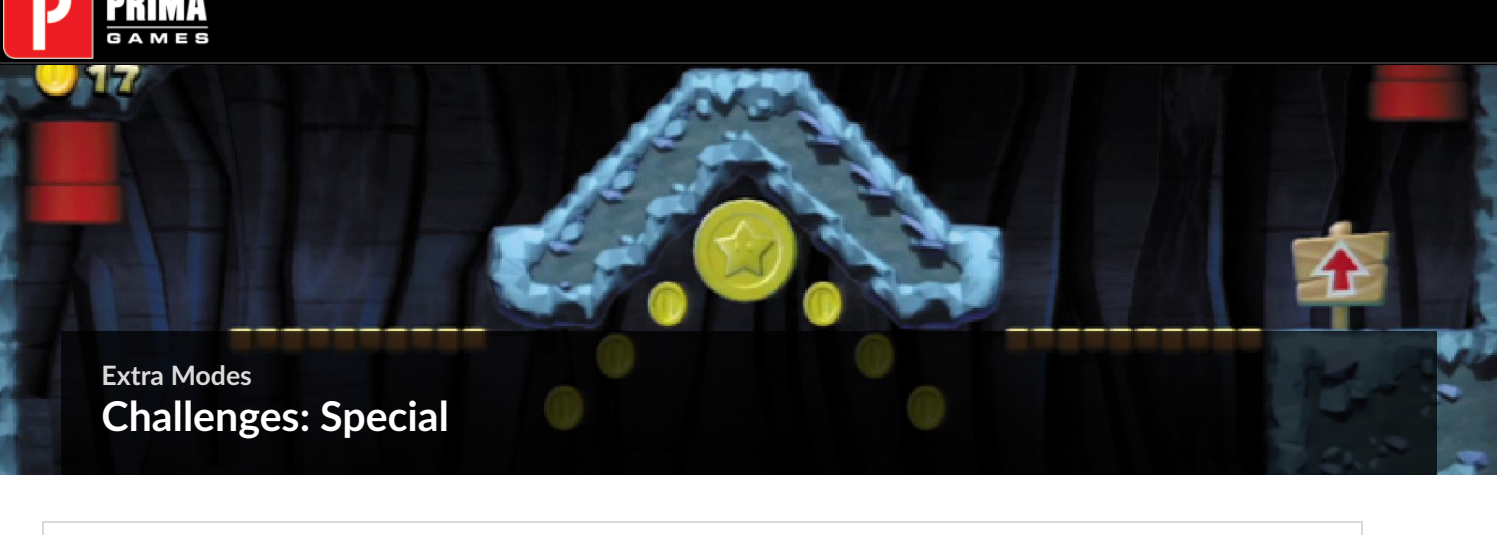
Paratroopa Panic

Difficulty:	★★★★★

- Objective: Jump on the Paratroopas without touching the ground to earn 1-Ups.



This final 1-Up Rally is a tough one to clear—fortunately, you need only four 1-Ups to earn the Bronze. Begin by stomping all of the Paratroopas, then stomp all of the remaining Koopas to make them all turtle up. Perform wall jumps after you stomp each Koopa, and use plenty of midair spins to extend your wall jumps and remain airborne as long as possible. As long as you perform spinning wall jumps after you stomp each Koopa, they'll recover in time for you to keep on stomping them!



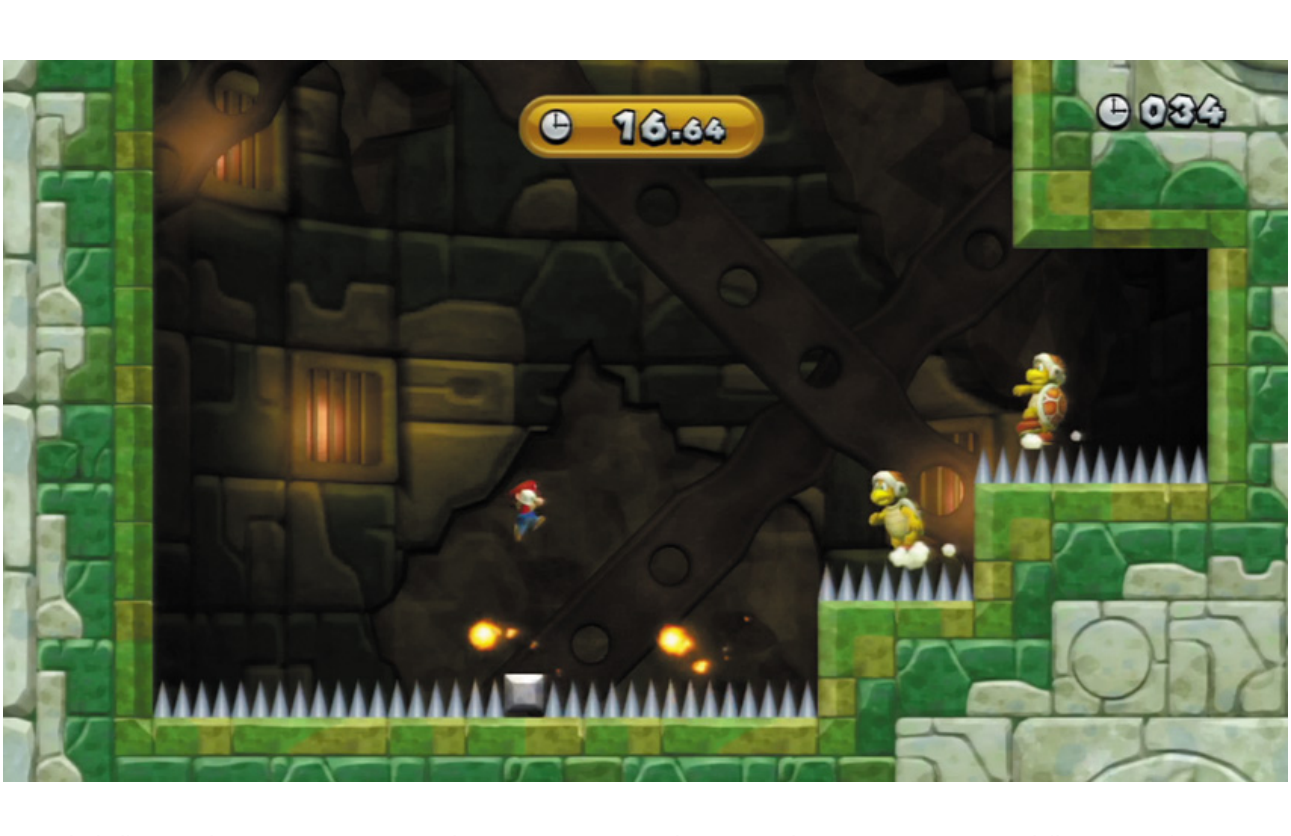
Extra Modes

Challenges: Special

Fire, Bro!

Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Dodge the fireballs for 15.00 or longer.



Special Challenges place Mario in unique and inventive situations that require him to use a variety of skills to meet the Challenge's particular goal. In this first Special Challenge, you must jump in place to avoid fireballs that are thrown at Mario by a pair of remote Fire Bros. Simply make short hops to avoid individual fireballs, and perform higher jumps to dodge the fireballs when they come bouncing at you in pairs.

Tip

If you're about to land on a fireball, try spinning in midair to avoid it.

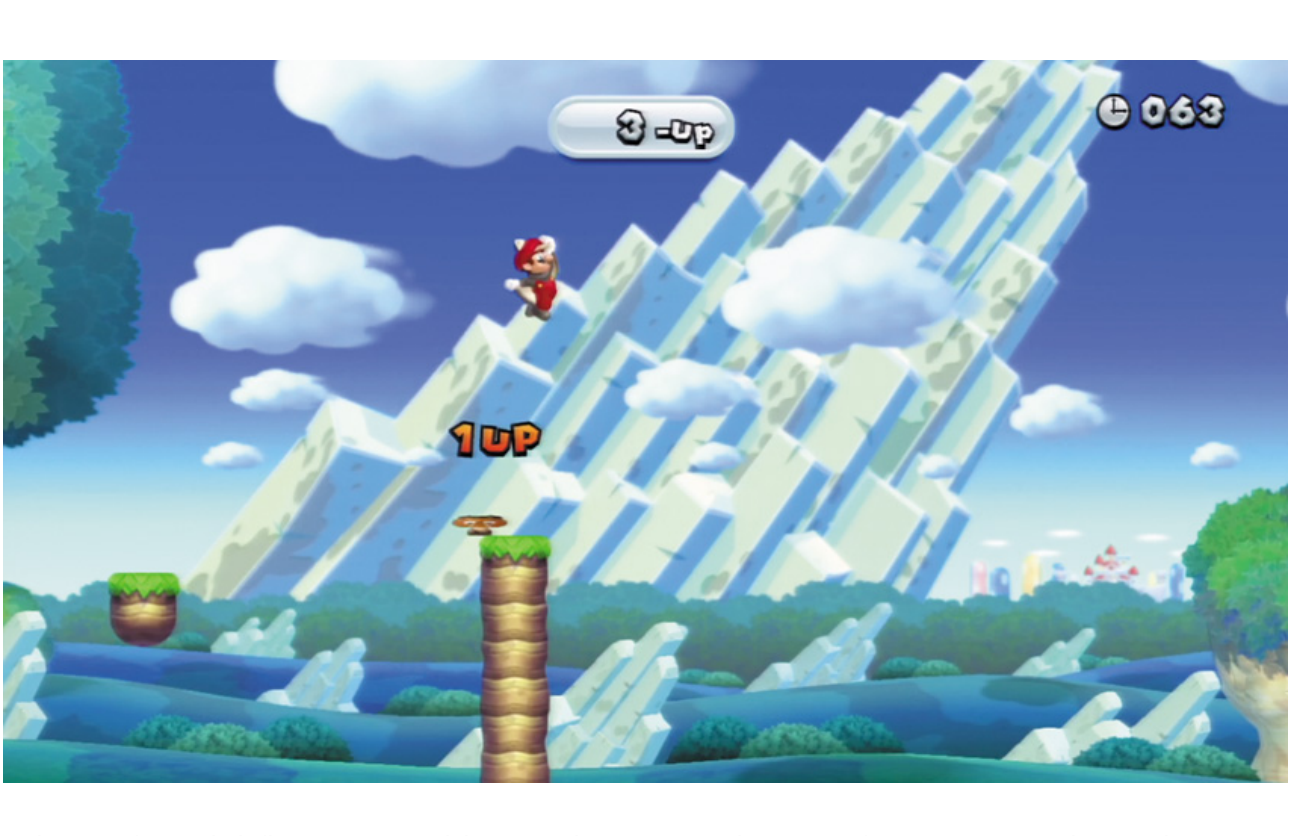
Tip

Keep dodging fireballs after you earn the Gold, and you'll eventually have your revenge against those dirty Fire Bros!

Graceful Glide

Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Earn 1-Ups and reach the goal without touching the ground in Flying Squirrel form.



In the second Special Challenge, you must glide across a long course as Flying Squirrel Mario. Bounce off the Goombrats as you go to maintain your glide all the way to the finish. You don't need to earn any 1-Ups to score the Bronze, but you must stomp every enemy if you wish to win Gold! Use the flying squirrel jump to soar up to higher enemies after stomping the ones on the low ground.

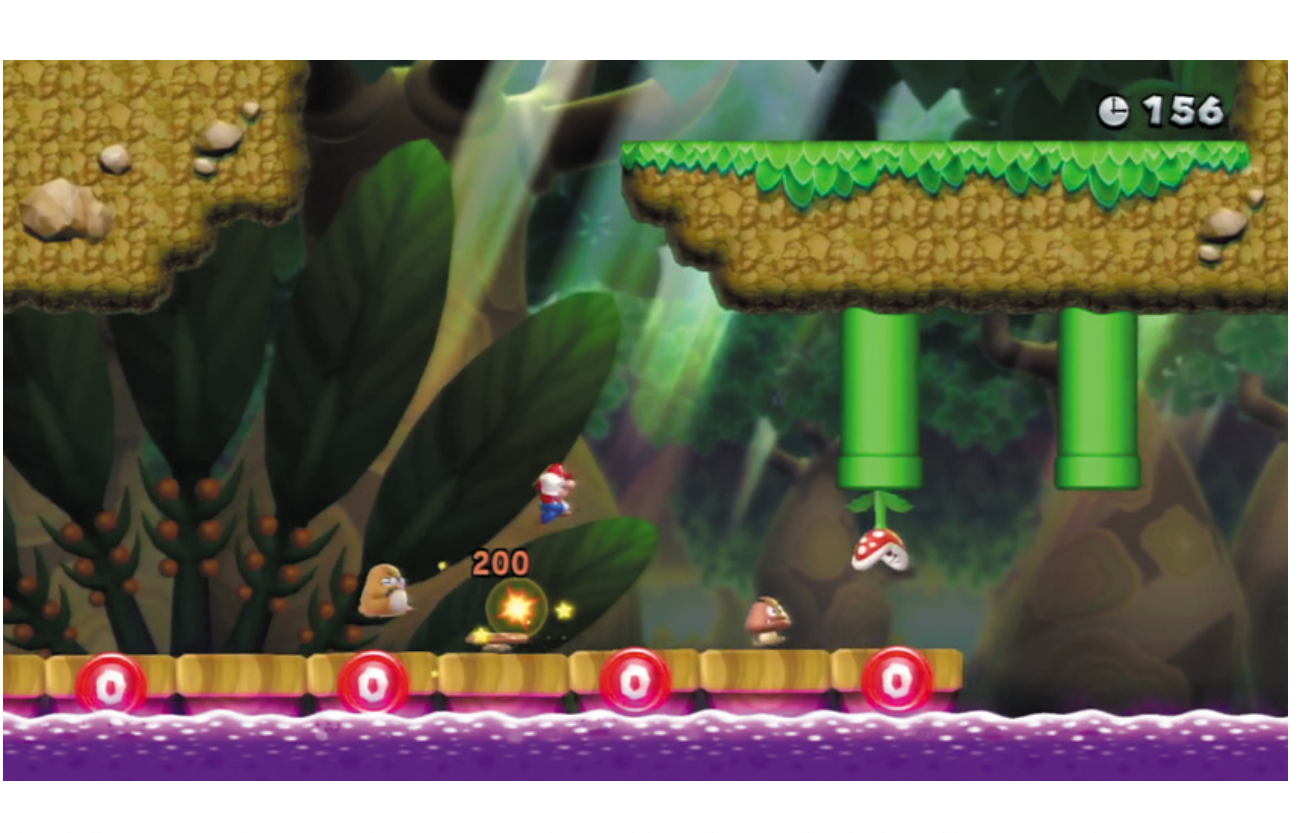
Tip

Use wall jumps in combination with flying squirrel jumps to reach the Goombrats more easily.

Mole to Goal

Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Let Monty Mole onto the lift, and get him to the goal.

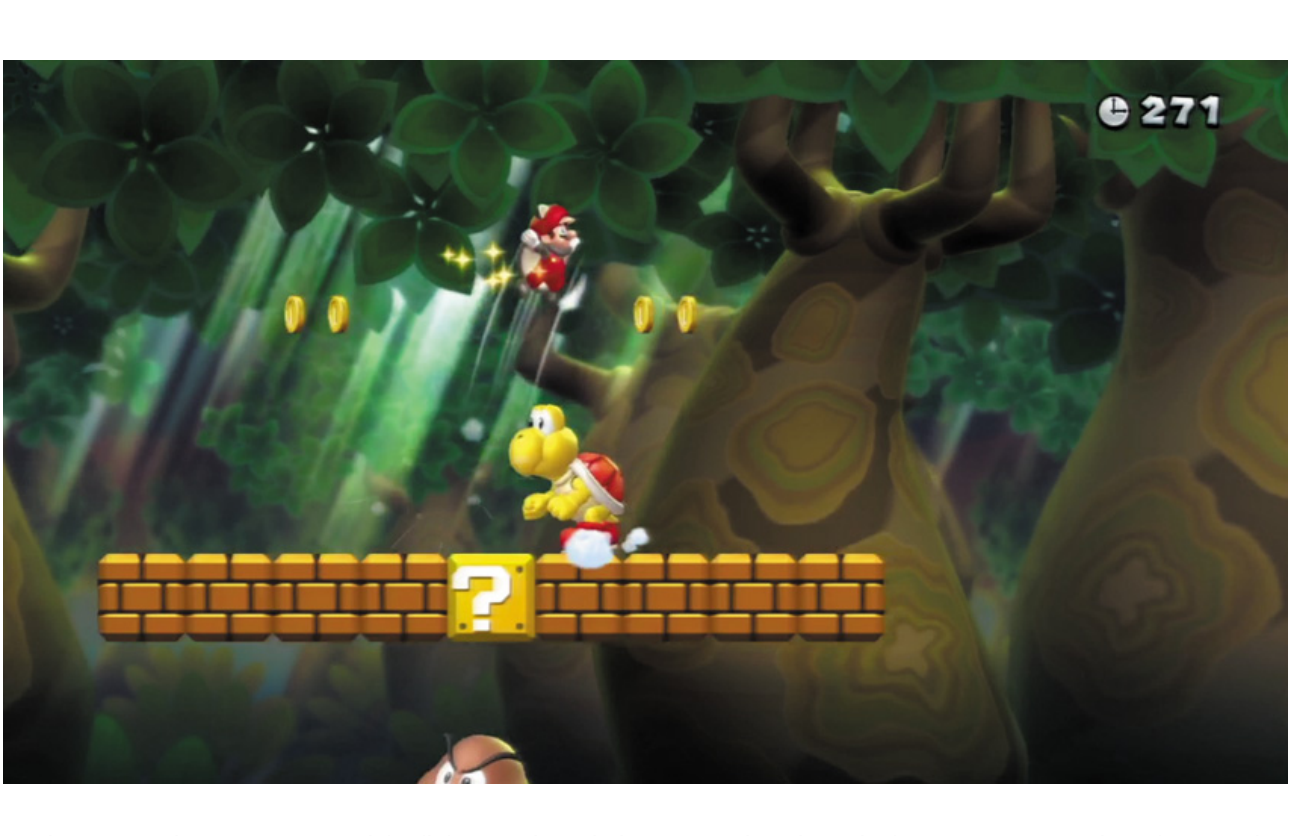


This Challenge is a simple pass or fail—no Bronze or Silver medals can be earned, only the Gold. Jump onto the Limited Lift and allow Monty Mole to hop on as well. Monty Mole chases after Mario, but you must not defeat him—he must make it to the goal! Try to stay near the middle of the lift so that Monty Mole won't accidentally run off the edge and into the Poison Bog. Defeat every enemy that lands on the lift, or else it will come to a halt. The ride isn't very long, so enjoy it while it lasts!

Marathon Glide

Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Use your Flying Squirrel powers to reach the goal without touching solid ground.



As Flying Squirrel Mario, you must glide all the way through this stage without being hit by an enemy or touching the ground even once. You'll need to bounce off most of the enemies as you go, and occasionally perform flying squirrel jumps to gain the extra height you need to slip past Piranha Plants and the like. Just keep on gliding until you reach that Goal Pole!

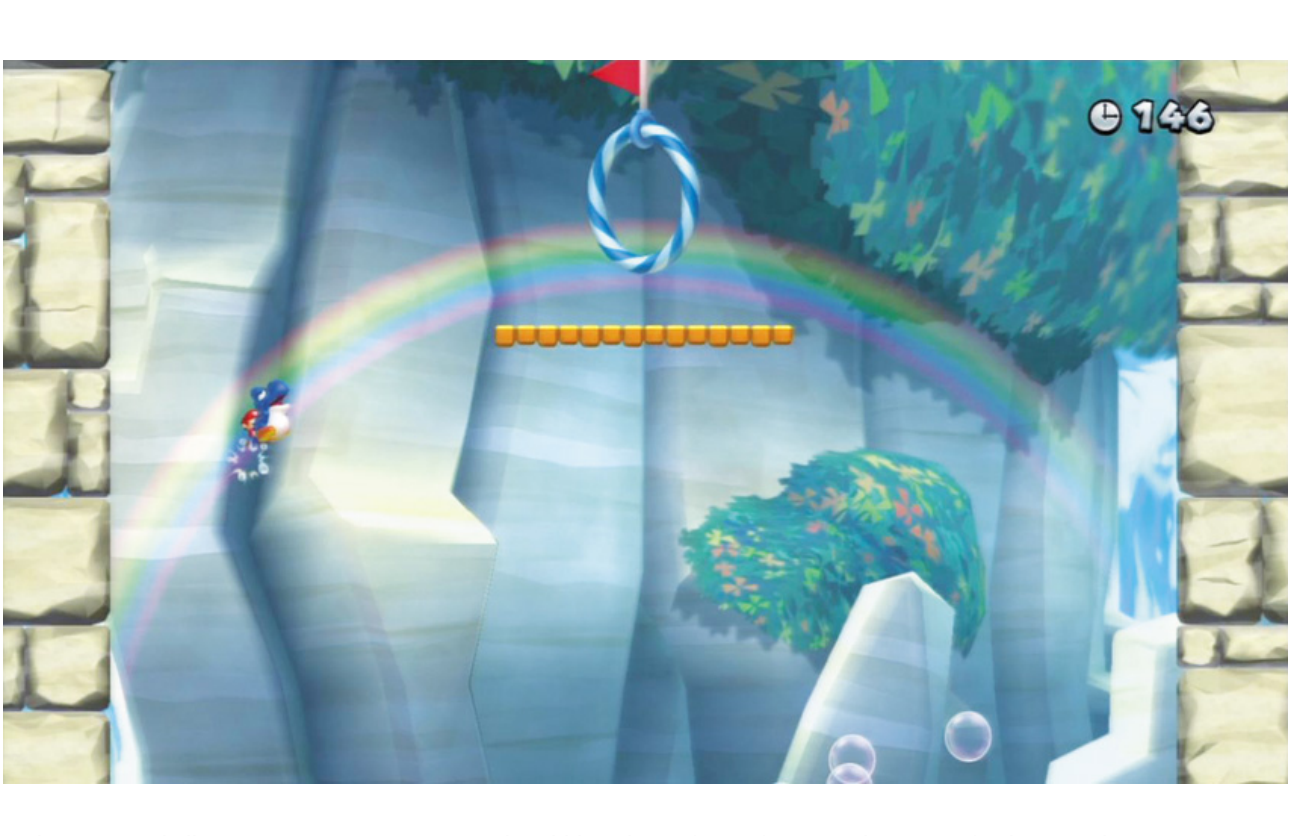
Tip

Avoid using the flying squirrel jump until it's absolutely necessary—once you use it, you won't be able to glide again until you bounce off an enemy.

Bubble Up

Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Use Baby Yoshi's bubbles to reach the goal ring.



In this unique Challenge, Mini Mario teams up with Bubble Baby Yoshi, working together to reach a lofty Goal Ring. Mini Mario is light enough to bounce off the bubbles that this Baby Yoshi blows, so pick up the little guy and blow some out. Hold the jump button to bounce off the bubbles, and keep those bubbles coming so you may continue to bound ever upward. Beware of the pesky Paratroopas—bounce off them if you can, or simply allow Balloon Baby Yoshi to gobble them up. You have plenty of time to reach the Goal Ring, so just keep blowing and bouncing until you get there!

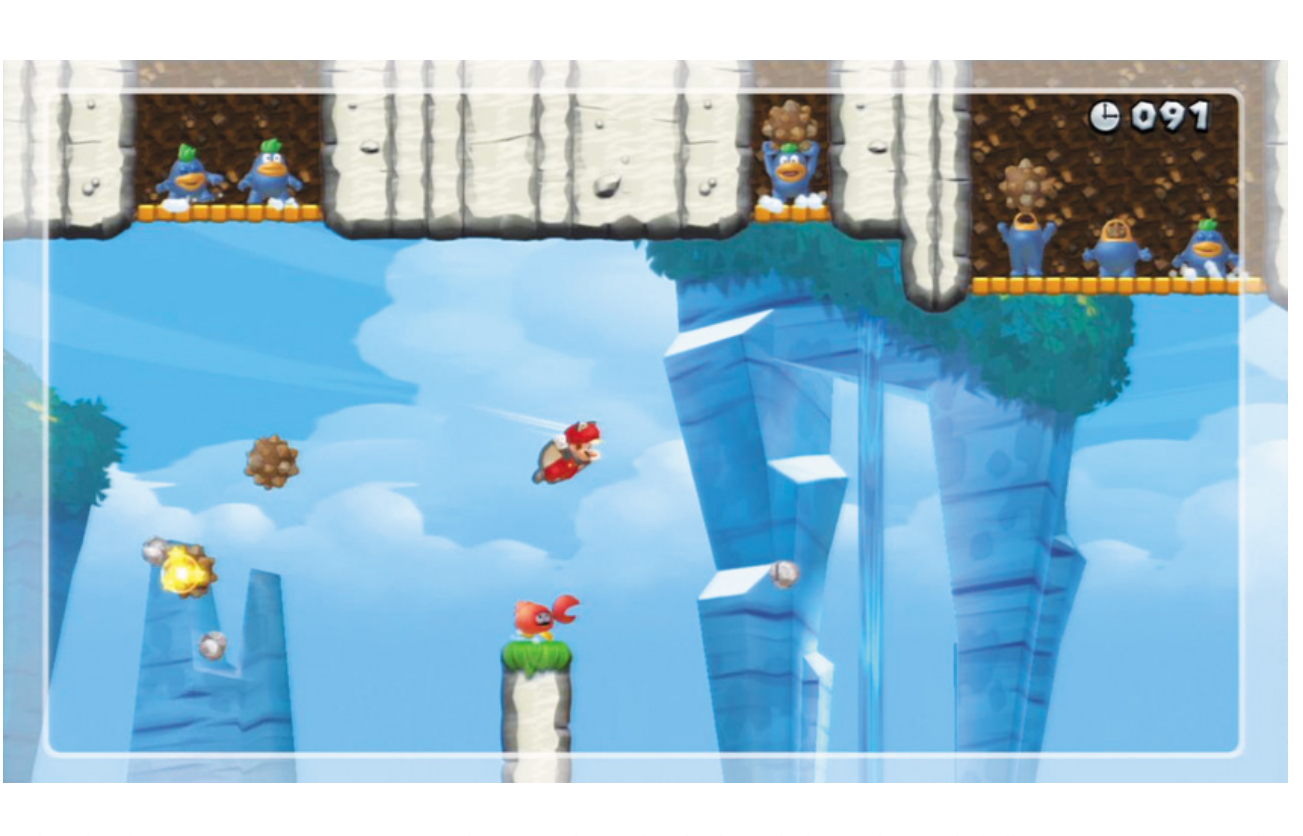
Tip

Hit the Paratroopas with bubbles to turn them into bigger bubbles that you can bounce extra high off of!

Nonstop Flight

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Use your Flying Squirrel powers to reach the goal without touching the ground.



Rather than bouncing off every enemy, try making a single, fluid flight through this final Special Challenge. You can sail straight through the course's first half, so just run, jump, and then glide! If you do it right, you'll bounce off the rocks that the Huckit Crabs throw and maintain your glide without any effort. However, when a tall ledge gets in your way, you'll need to bounce off the Huckit Crabs and perform flying squirrel jumps to get past it. Then just glide past the final group of overhead Spikes, and grab that Goal Pole!

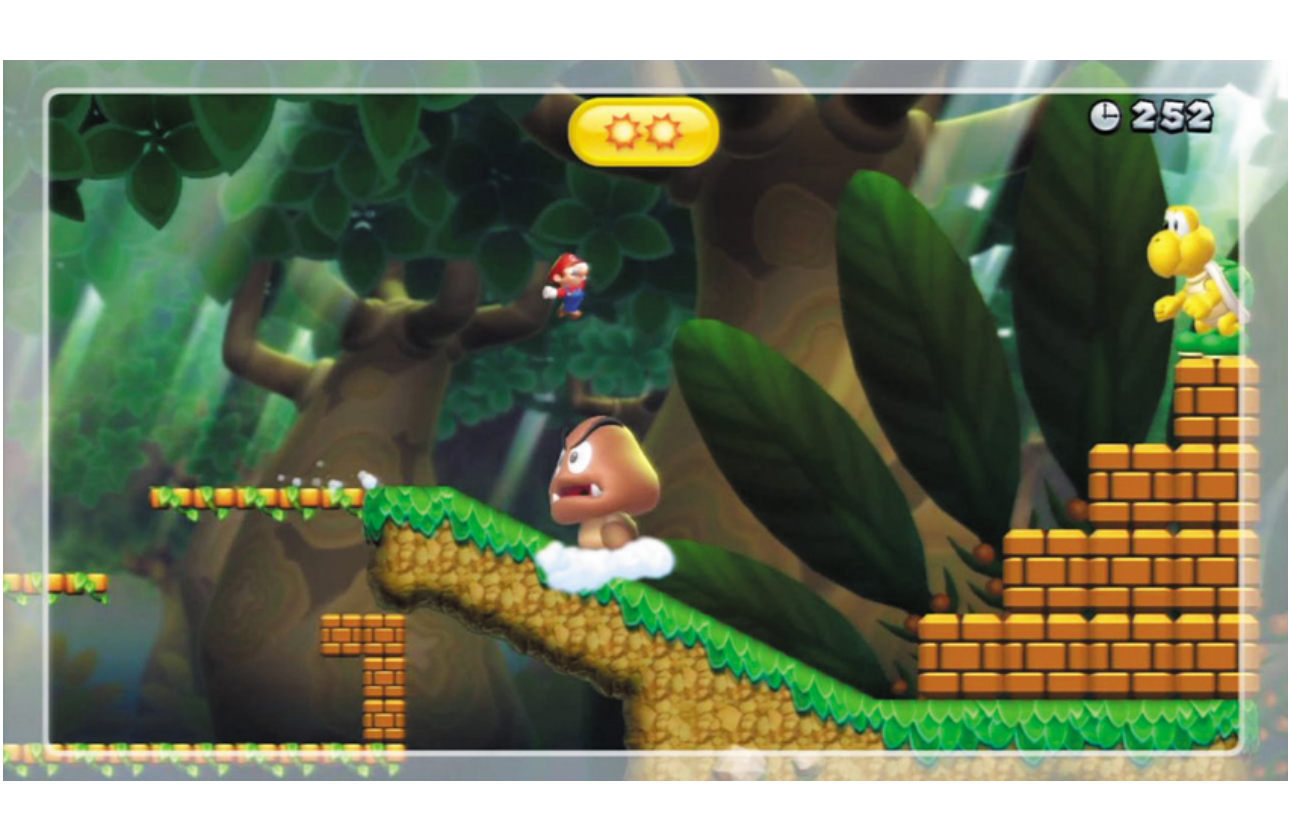
Tip

If you're about to hit a Huckit Crab's rock after performing a flying squirrel jump, try performing a short ground pound and see if you can avoid it.

Be Gentle to Giants

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Reach the goal without damaging enemies. The Challenge ends if you damage enemies three times.

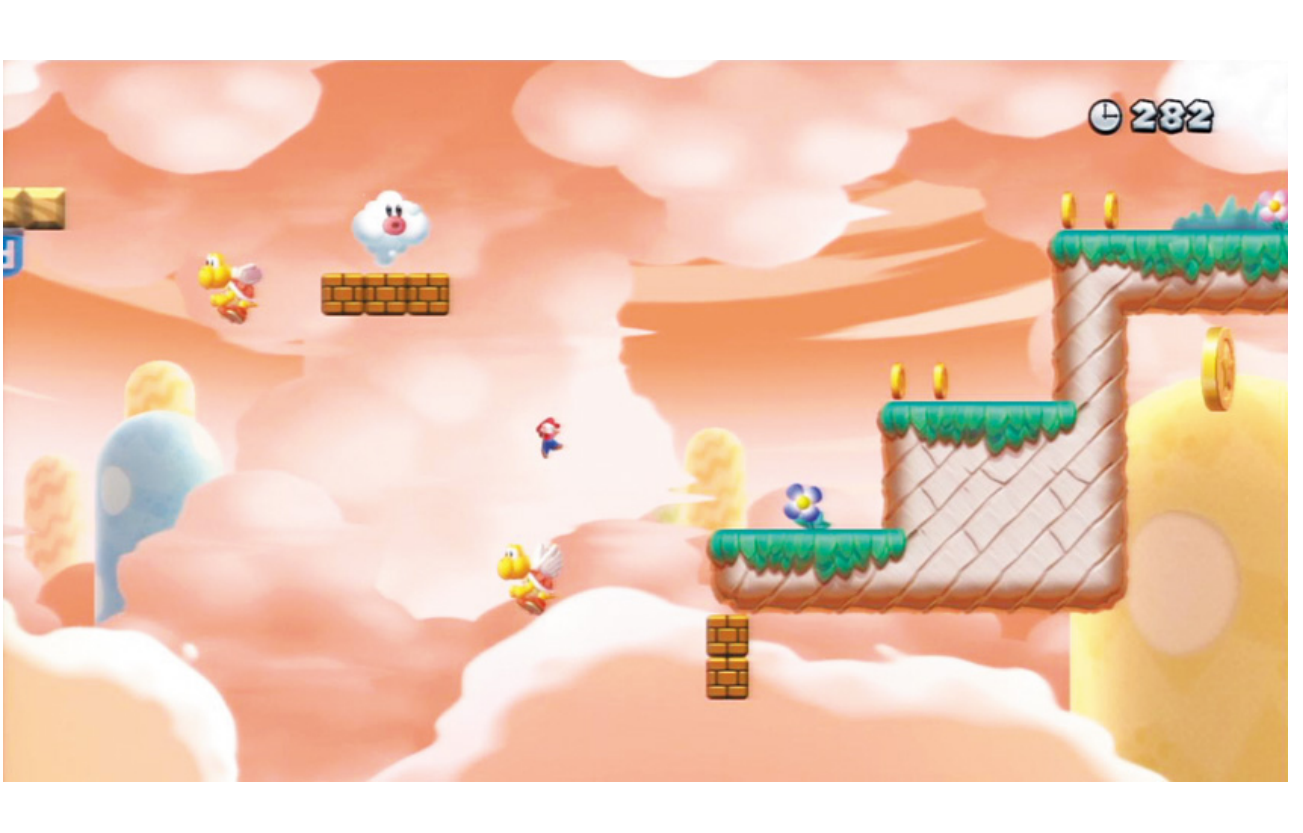


Patience and midair spins are your best friends in this Special Challenge, for it isn't easy to clear the course without stomping its overgrown foes. Leap over each enemy that gets in your way, spinning in midair to ensure that you sail harmlessly overhead. Whenever necessary, pause and allow enemies to move out of tricky positions, so that you can jump past more easily. Goombas and green Koopas will walk off Brick Blocks and ledges—and sometimes its best to let them move out of your way!

Big Air at Sundown

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Reach the goal in Mini Mario form without using the Snake Blocks.

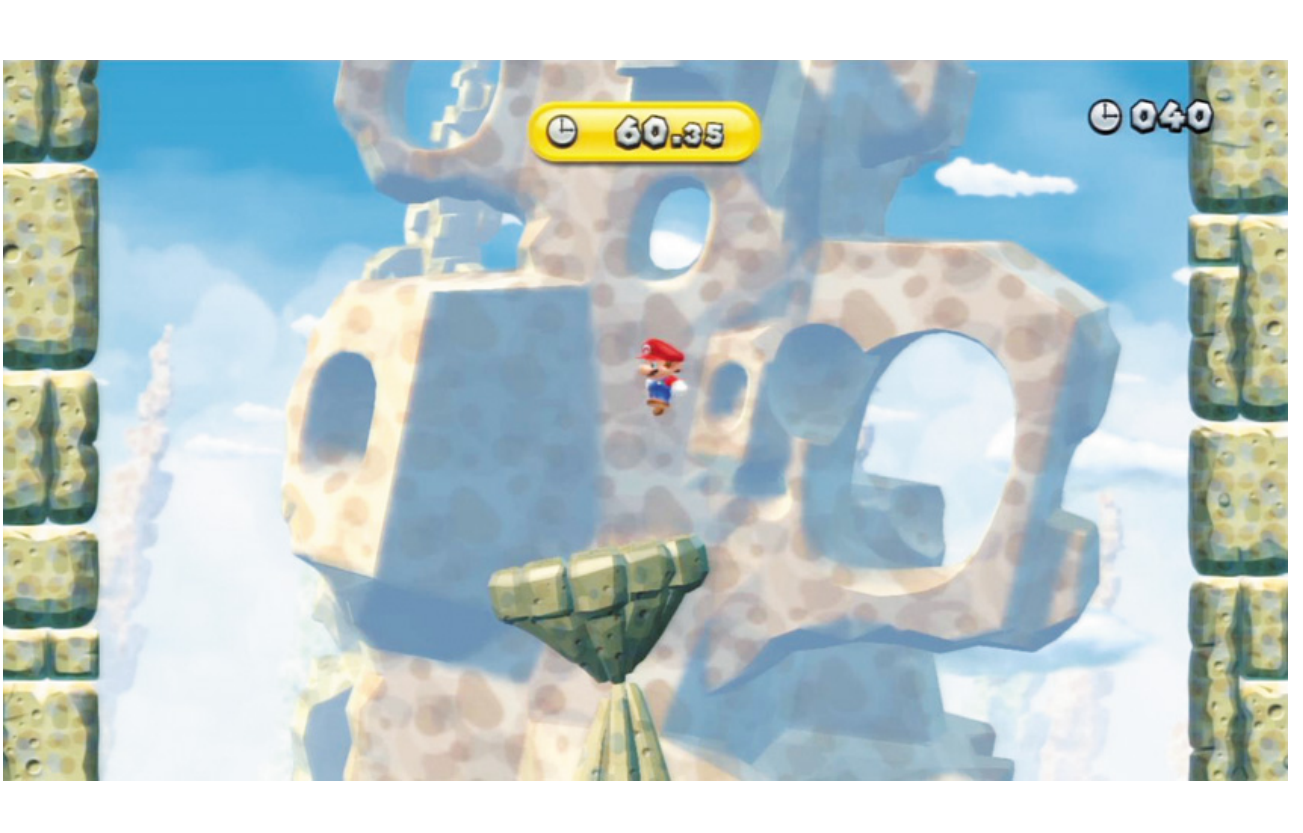


Although you can't ride the Snake Block during this difficult Special Challenge, Mini Mario can jump great distances, which gives you a sporting chance. Leap through the air and perform midair spins to extend your jumps. Bounce off enemies when there are no Brick Blocks or ledges to land on. You don't need to bounce off every enemy, mind you. Again, use midair spins to lengthen your jumps, making as few leaps as possible on your way to the goal.

Balancing Act

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Jump on the Wobble Rock to keep your balance for 15.00 or longer.

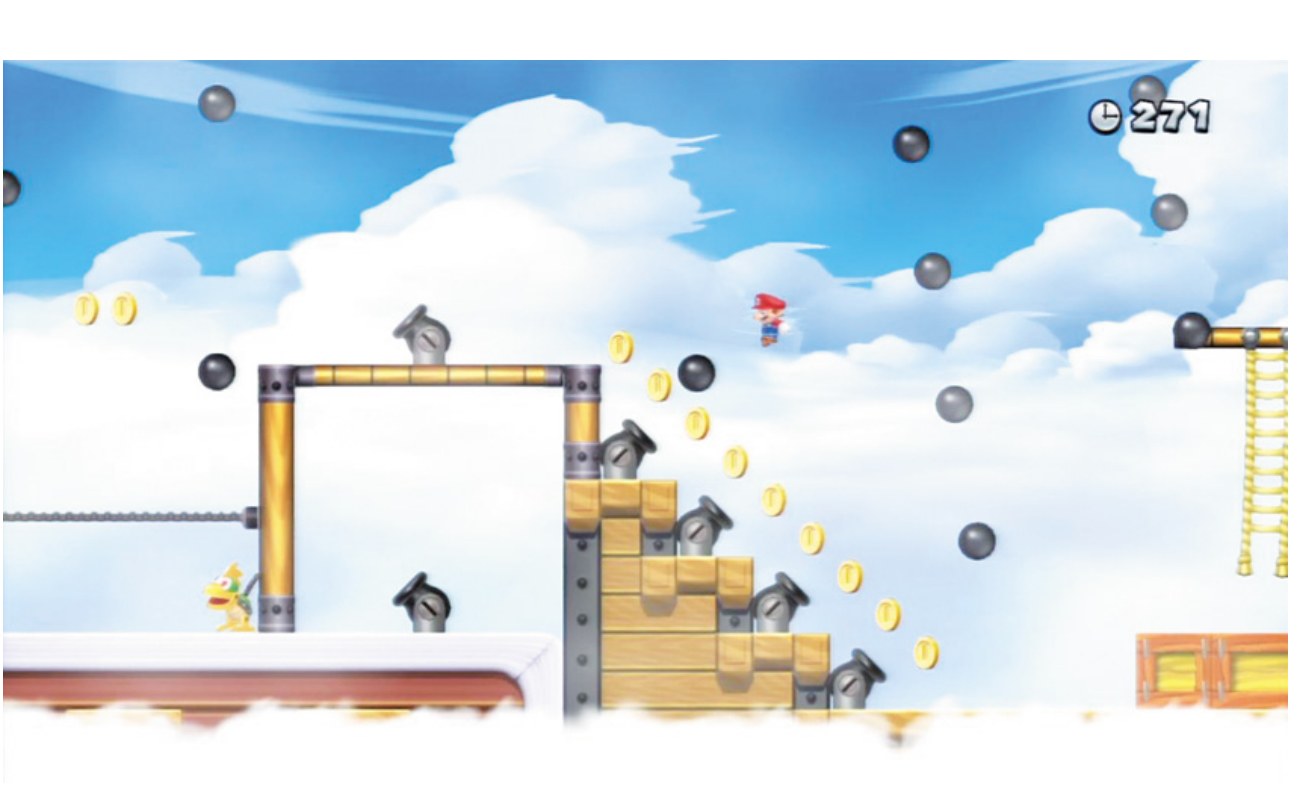


This Special Challenge is straightforward enough—just keep jumping on the center of the Wobble Rock so that it doesn't tip and fall. The less time you spend on the treacherous rock, the better, so perform midair spins to stay airborne as long as possible. If the rock tips to one side, jump on the other side to balance it out. Just don't stand still on the rock, or it's sure to topple!

Bowser's Airship Sneak

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring without hurting any enemies, touching any cannonballs, or collecting any Coins!

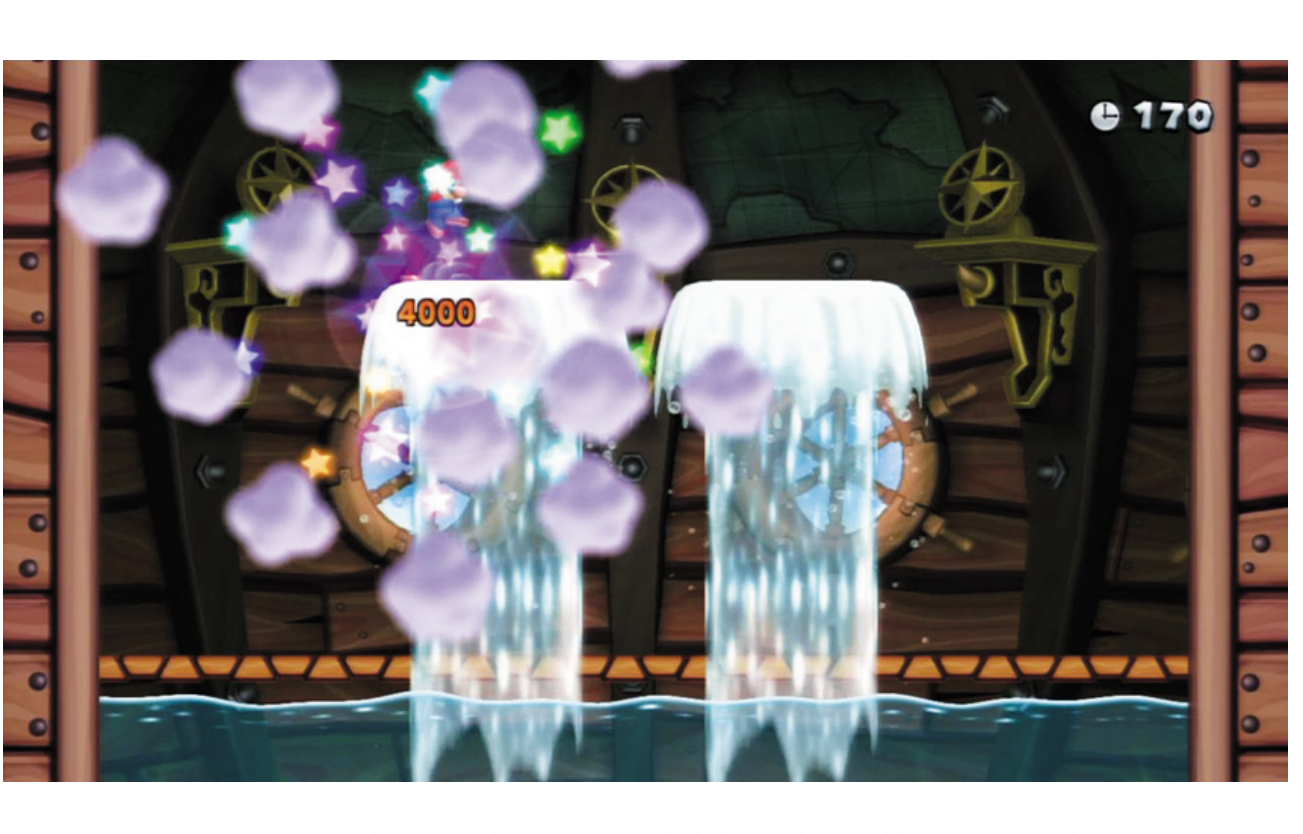


With so many Coins and cannonballs to avoid on Bowser's Airship, you've got your work cut out for you in this Special Challenge! Take your time and make good use of midair spins to extend your jumps over these obstacles. Be certain not to stomp any enemies as you go—Bowser can't ever know that Mario was here!

Larry's Groundless Battle

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Defeat Larry Koopa without touching the ground.



Waste no time in stomping Larry at the start of this unique Special Challenge, then quickly retreat across the Water Geysers to avoid his spinning shell. Leap to the top of the left wall when the Geysers go out, and slowly slide down the wall. Perform a wall jump before you hit the ground, and land on a Geyser as they begin to gush up again. Keep wall jumping to and from the Geysers as needed until you're able to stomp Larry a second time. Stomp the young Koopa three times to survive this wet and wild fight!

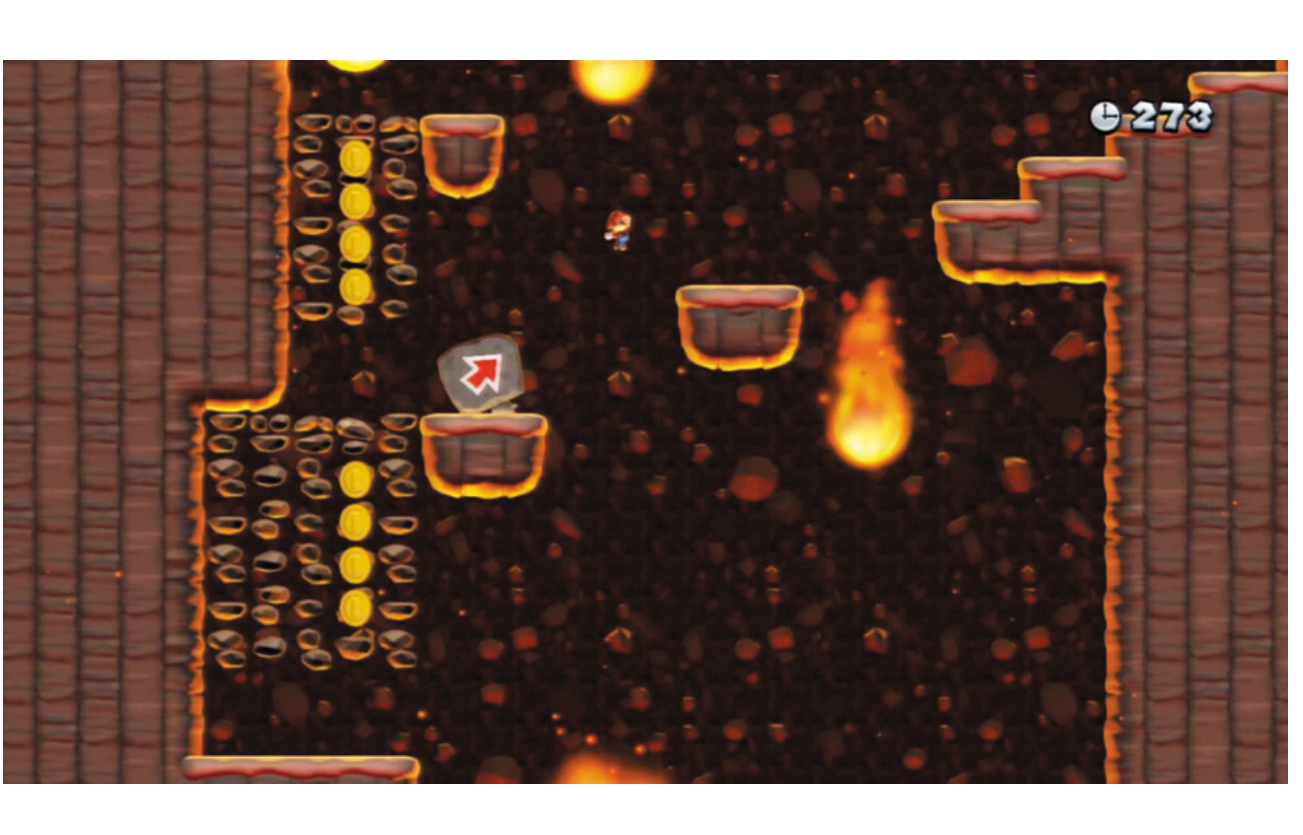
Tip

Whenever Larry's walking on the ground, stand on the Geyser that's nearest to him. If Larry walks into the Geyser, he'll be hoisted up to you, and you'll automatically stomp him when he hits Mario's feet!

No Climbing Allowed

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring in Mini Mario form.

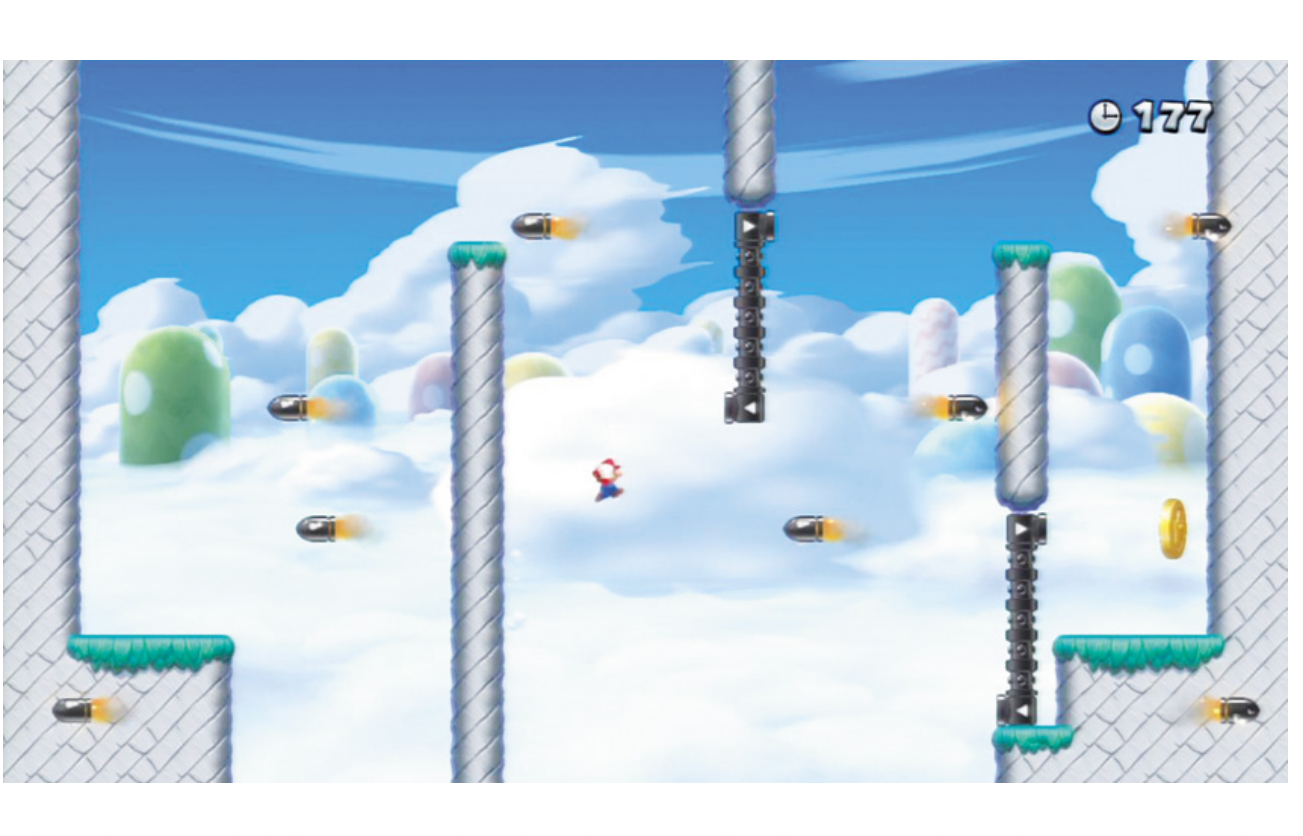


In this difficult Special Challenge, you must make your way up to a high Goal Ring while avoiding all manner of hazards. You're playing as Mini Mario here, and the little guy can't climb the rock walls—this forces you to jump and wall jump your way up the cliff. Beware of the falling meteors, and try not to move too fast—allow the camera to pan ahead so you can plan out your moves. Use spin jumps as needed to clear the longer gaps as you climb ever upward.

The Trial of Bullet Bill Hill

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Collect the Star Coin.

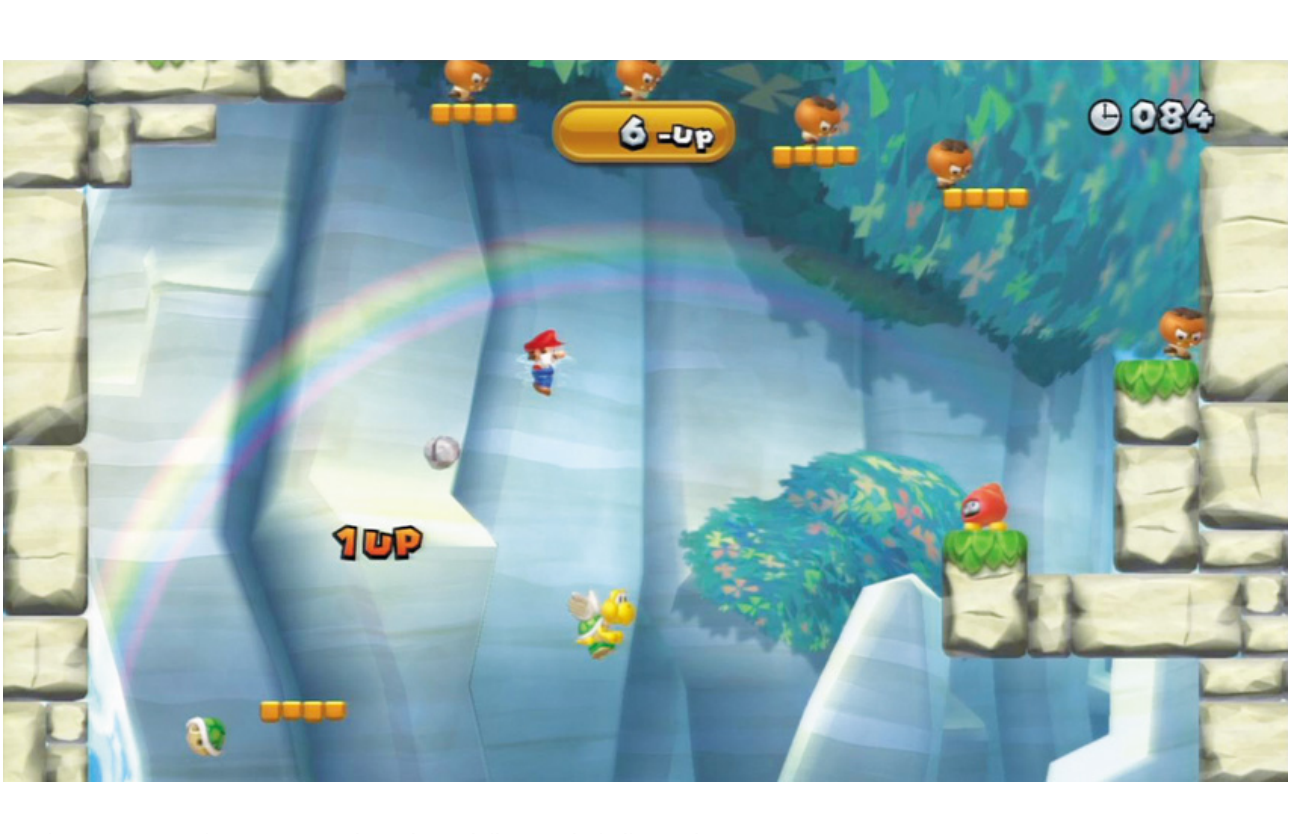


In this explosive Special Challenge, you must leap along a barrage of Bullet Bills as you bound toward a Star Coin. Wait on the starting ledge for the Bullet Bills to start flying—study them and look for a pattern. Bounce up the first few Bullet Bills that pass overhead, then wall jump off the left cliff to bounce off the highest Bullet Bill and land on the nearby ledge. Wait for your chance to drop all the way down and bounce off the lowest Bullet Bill, then wall jump off the ledge you fell from. Bounce off another Bullet Bill and wall jump your way up the right ledges. You're nearly there—drop down carefully and collect that Star Coin!

Spin Jump, Get Dizzy

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Stomp on enemies using only the Spin Jump without touching the ground to earn 1-Ups.

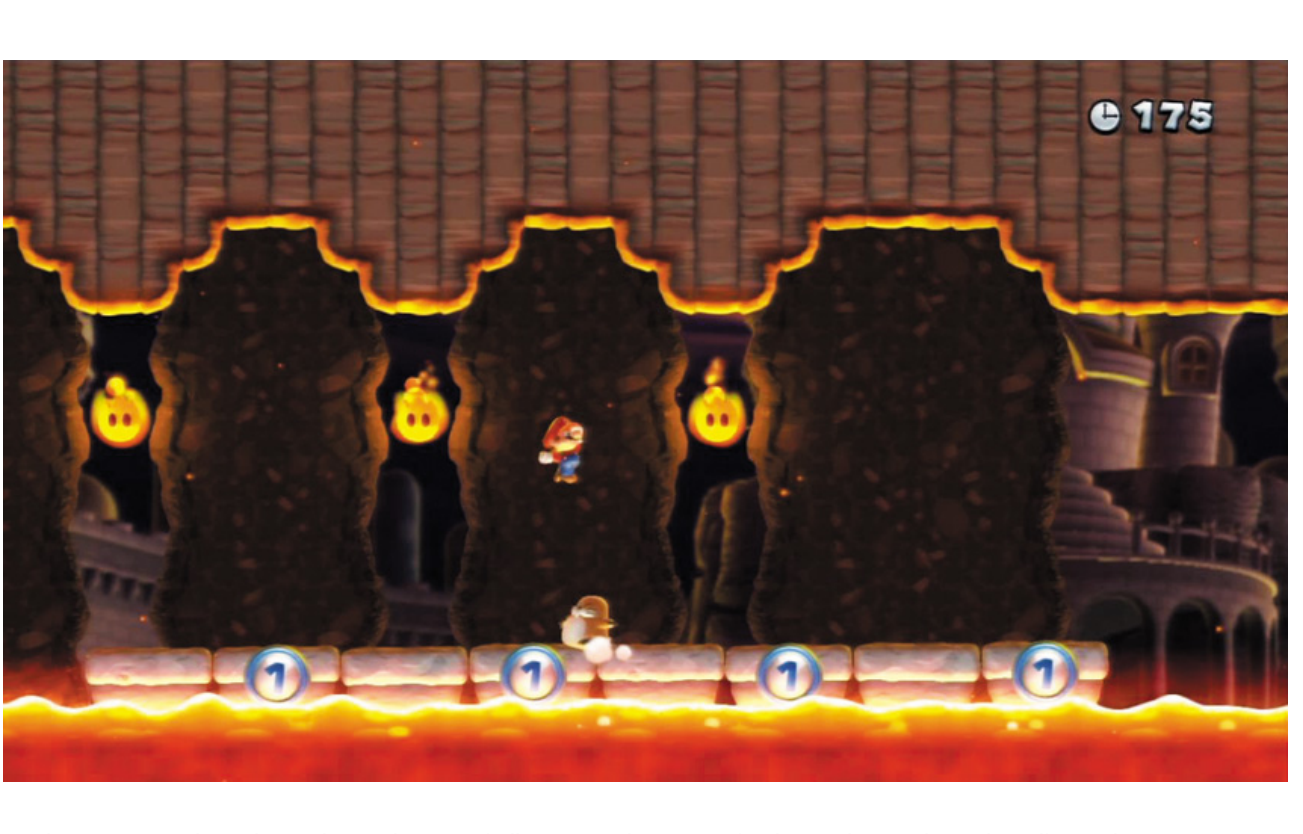


Work your way up the mountainside in this uphill Special Challenge, bouncing off every enemy to score 1-Ups as you go. You may only use the spin jump during this event—not midair spins after regular jumps, but spin jumps. You must also avoid touching the ground. The spin jump can be tricky to predict, but you only need to score three 1-Ups to clear this challenge. Of course, you've got to stomp every enemy if you want to win the Gold!

Mole to Goal Returns

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Let Monty Mole onto the lift, and get him to the goal.



Guiding Monty Mole to the goal is made more challenging in this event, thanks to a host of hazards. Still, your basic strategy remains the same: Hang out near the center of the lift as often as possible to keep Monty from running off the edge, and defeat each enemy that lands on the lift to keep it moving along. Lava Bubbles and other obstacles make it impossible to remain in the lift's center the entire time, so move to the edges as needed—but be careful not to let Monty fall!

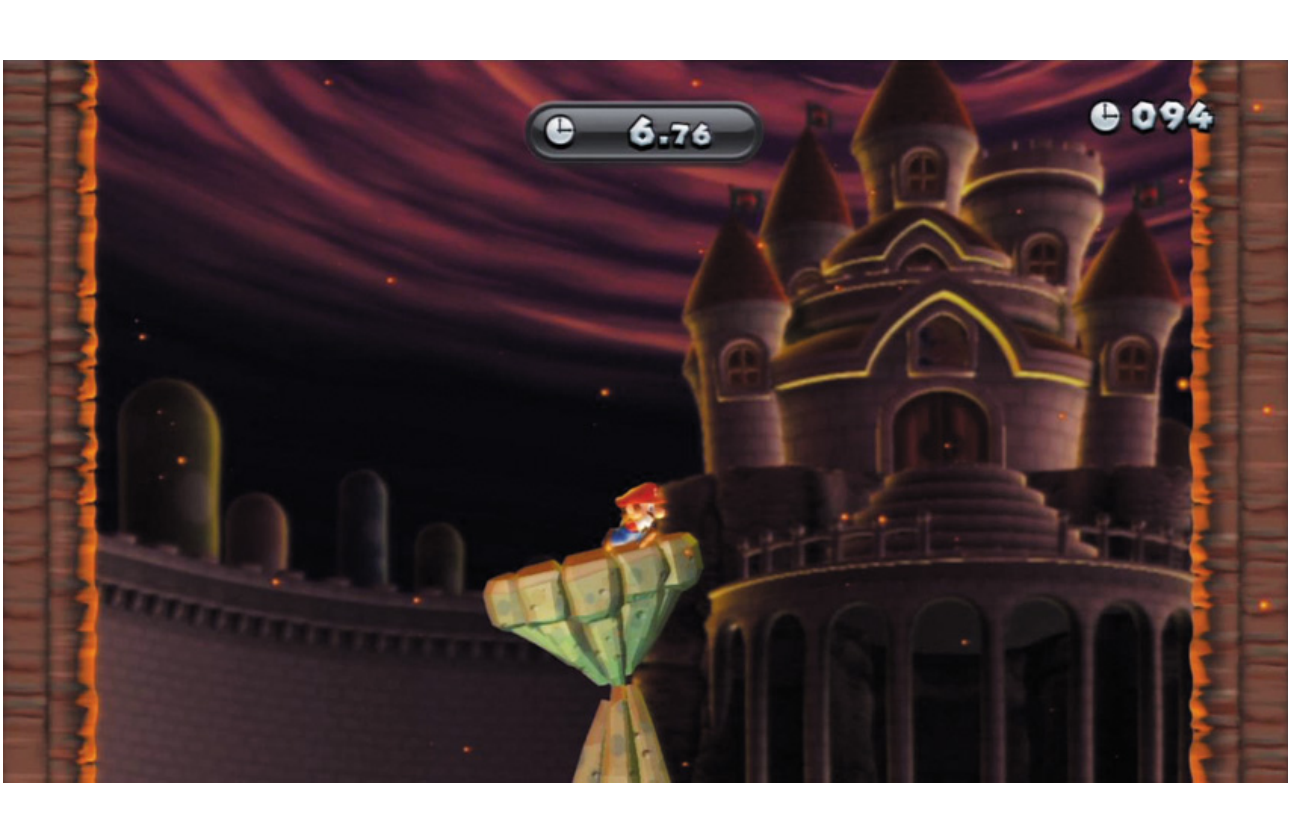
Tip

Get into a rhythm when you jump over Monty, aiming to leap just before the Lava Bubbles fly up. Spin in midair as well to maintain height and control.

Wobble and Rock

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Stay on the Wobble Rock as long as possible without jumping.

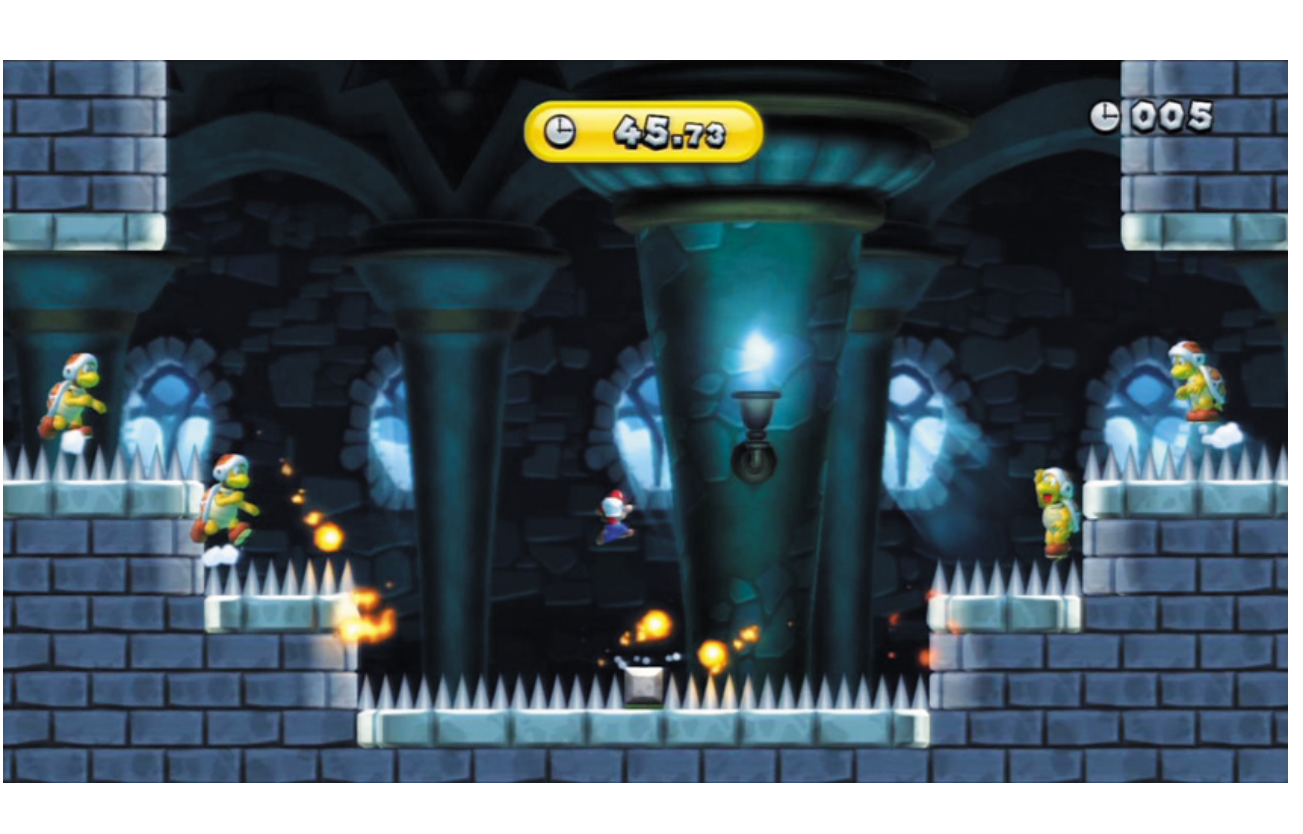


The Wobble Rock is back, and it's wobblier than ever! There's no jumping allowed this time around, so you must dash back and forth across the rock, doing your best to balance it out on foot. If the rock starts to tip too far to one side, stand on the other side for a moment. Otherwise, simply dash back and forth as fast as you can to keep the rock from falling. Survive for at least 10 seconds to clear the Challenge!

Seriously! Fire, Bro!

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Dodge the fireballs for 15.00 or longer.



If you thought two Fire Bros were tough to handle, try avoiding the fireballs of four! You'll need to perform all manner of jumps during this challenge—short hops, tall leaps, and probably midair spins as well to avoid landing atop unexpected fireballs. Do your best to anticipate those inbound projectiles, and try not to jump any higher than you must to avoid them. Get into a rhythm, or else you're toast!

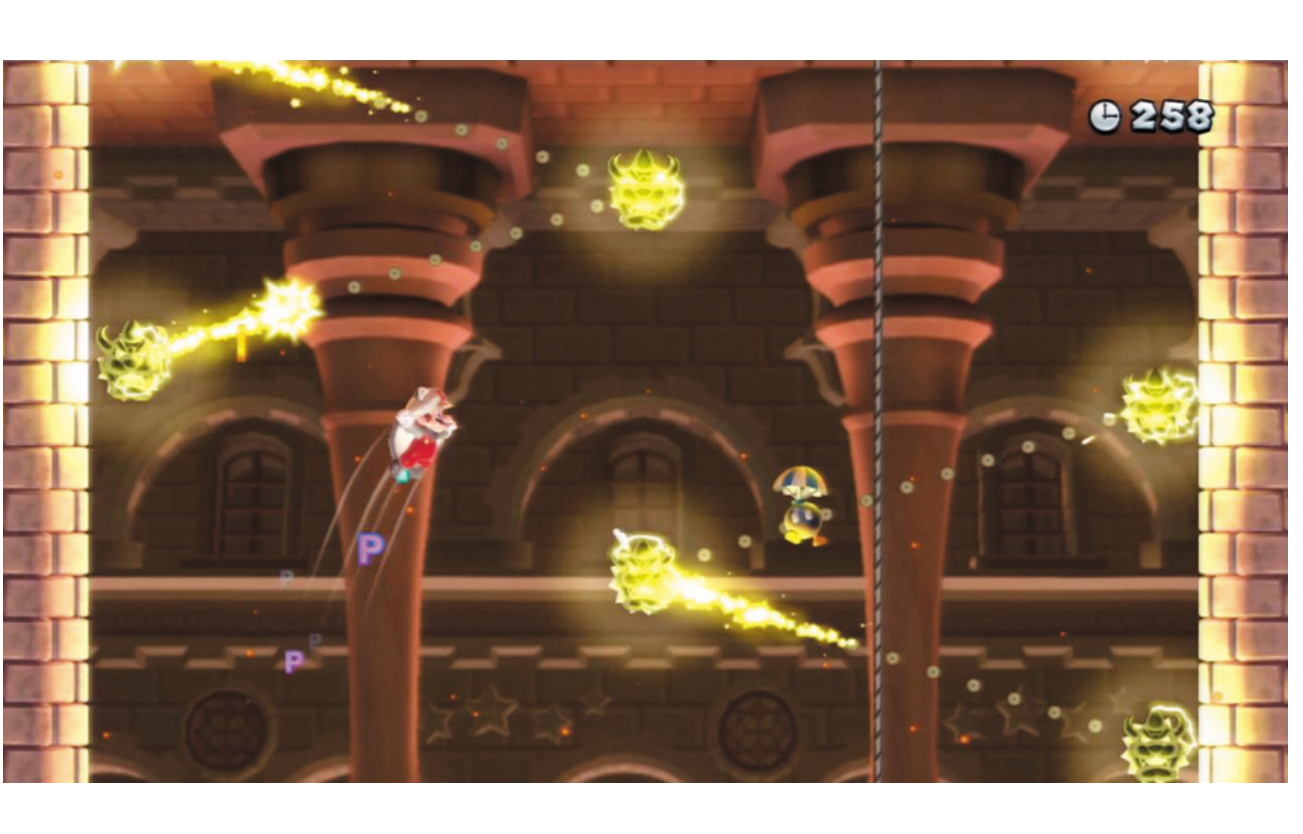
Tip

Like before, you can wipe out those filthy Fire Bros by surviving to the 50.00 mark!

Elevator Out of Service

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Reach the goal ring without using the lift.



The Red-Hot Elevator is out of service—you'll need to scale this treacherous tower with the aid of Power Squirrel Mario! In this form, you have all the same advantages as Flying Squirrel Mario, but you can perform flying squirrel jumps over and over without landing. This gives you the power to fly all the way up the tower—as long as you're careful to avoid every enemy on the way up!

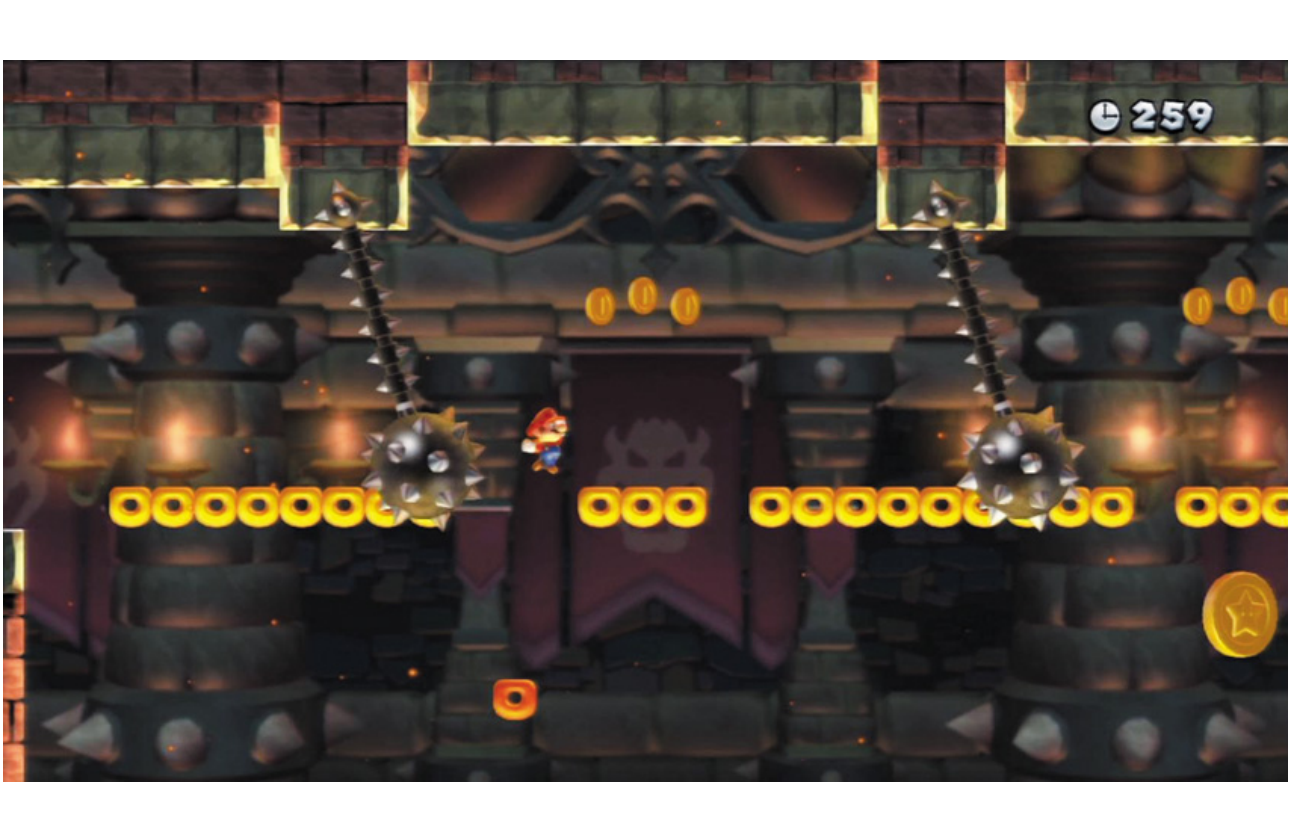
Tip

If you're about to glide into an enemy, try performing a short ground pound to avoid the hit!

Castle Crawl

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring without dashing.

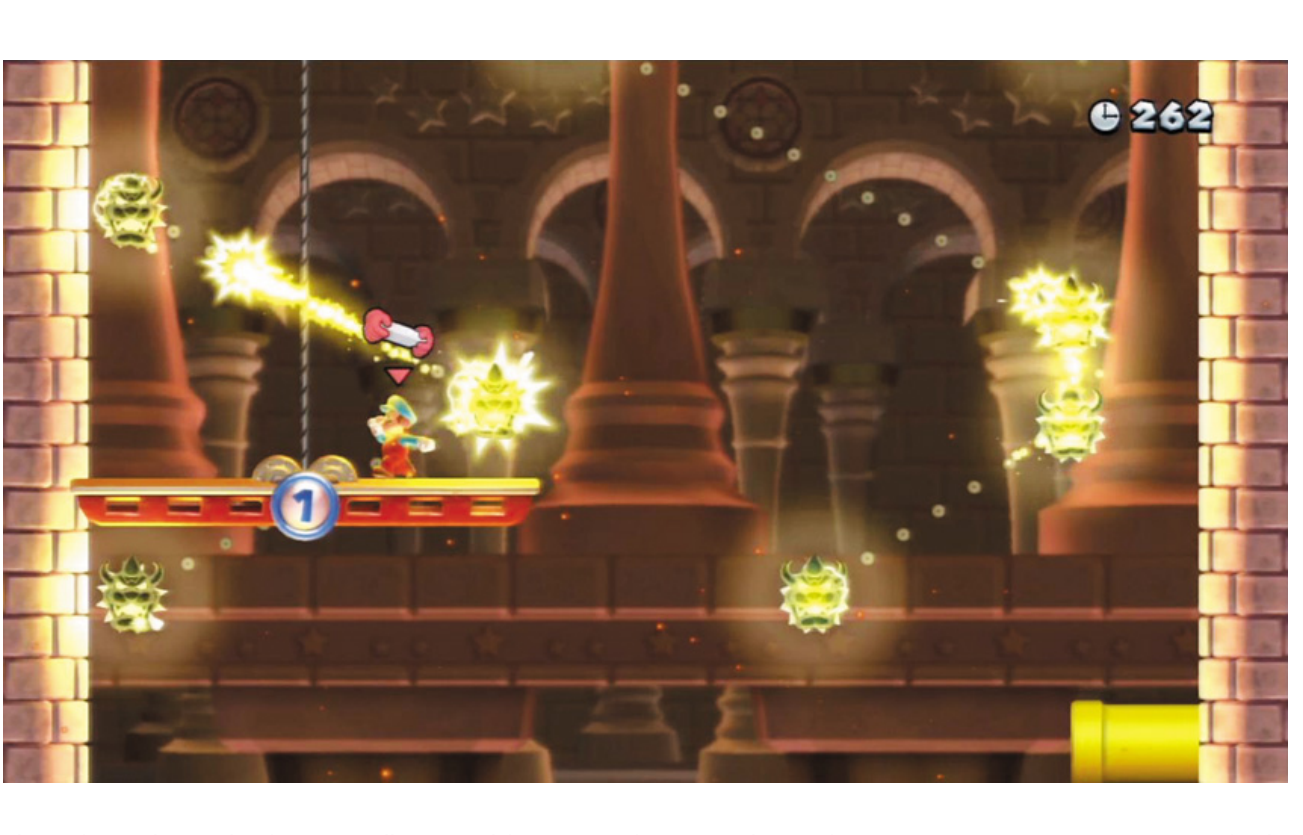


Keep your thumb away from the dash button as you make your way through this trap-filled castle. If you've played the Pendulum Castle in Story Mode, you already know that this is an extremely challenging stage. Time your moves with great care to slip past each Spinner. The tactics for getting through the castle are largely the same as the ones detailed in the "Superstar Road—Pendulum Castle" section. However, you must be a little more creative during this run. Crouch to avoid certain Spinners (like the first one), or fall along with Donut Blocks and then quickly jump off the Donut Block to slip past others.

Express Elevator

Difficulty:	★★★★★

- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring in Ice Mario form without letting enemies or Coins touch the lift.

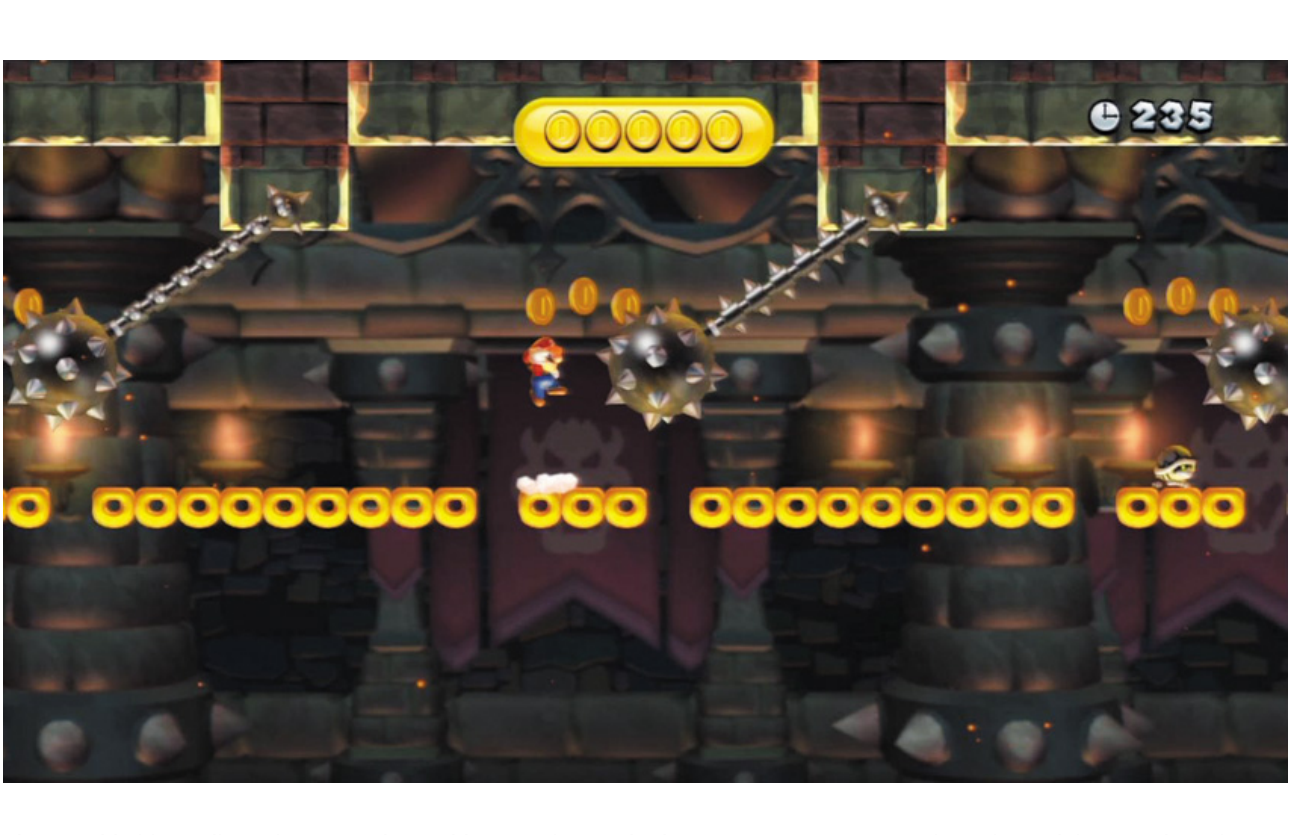


The Red-Hot Elevator has been partially repaired, but it can only support the weight of Mario—no enemies or Coins must land on the lift as you ride upward. Steer the lift away from enemies, and jump to collect Coins that drift toward you on parachutes. Once you're past the initial groups of Goombas, move all the way over to the left side of the tower, and jump or crouch as needed to avoid the currents produced by the Bowser Stunners above. Ignore the first P Switch, and simply smash through the overhead Brick Blocks instead. When the Parabombs begin to fall, leap up and freeze any that might land on the lift, then quickly jump and smash them from below. Continue to stick to the tower's left side until you reach the Goal Ring, then swing over and grab it!

Cashless Castle Crawl

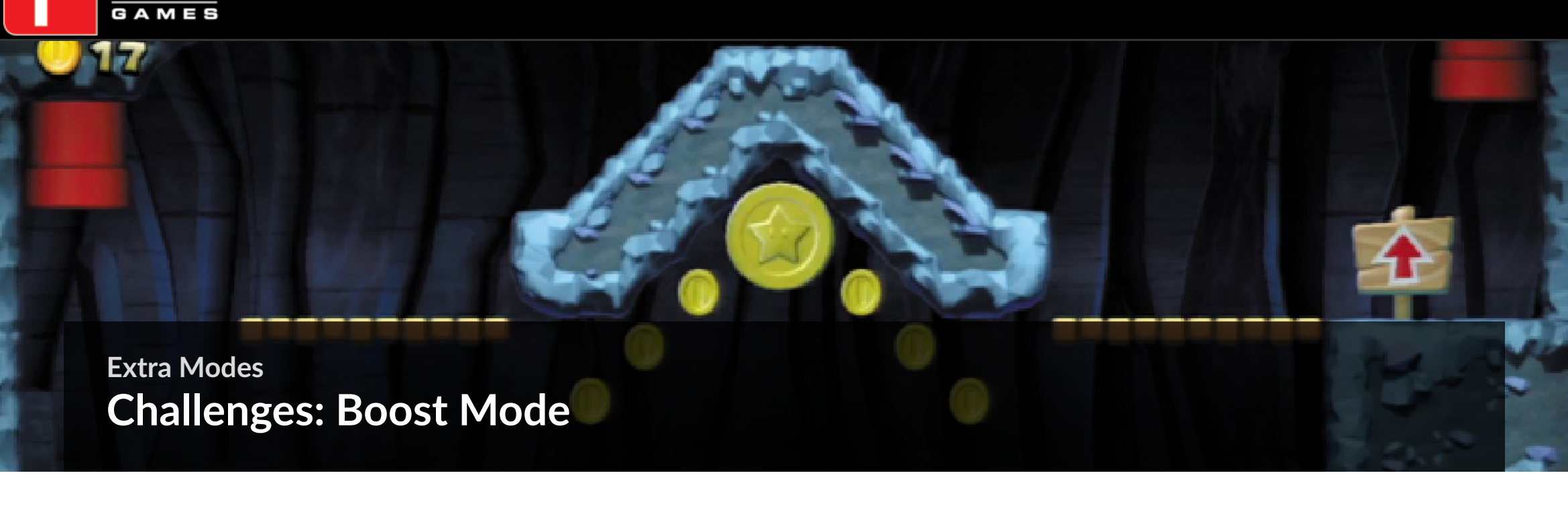
Difficulty:	★★★★★

- Objective: Reach the Goal Ring without dashing or collecting Coins. The Challenge ends if you collect six or more Coins.



The granddaddy of all Coinless runs, the Cashless Castle Crawl asks you to once again pass through Pendulum Castle without dashing—only this time, you must avoid all those Coins! This won't be easy, so here are some vital tips:

- Let the first Spinner swing to the right, then drop down and hop over the Coins below it. Leap up to the higher Donut Blocks and crouch to avoid the Spinner on the back swing.
- Slip past the next Spinner, then jump on the lower Donut Blocks as you wait for the third Spinner to swing to the left. Move past the Spinner and perform a spin jump to slip under the Coins beyond.
- You'll need to fall with the Donut Blocks to slip past the long stretch of Spinners that follows. For each Spinner, move behind it as it swings to the right, then stop and crouch on the final Donut Block beneath the Spinner. Fall with the Donut Block while the Spinner is changing direction and about to swing to the left. Jump from the Donut Block to bypass the Spinner before you fall too far!
- As you move through the rest of the castle, continue to leap from falling Donut Blocks to avoid Spinners, and use spin jumps to slip beneath low-hovering Coins.
- When you hit the ? Switch at the end of the course, crouch near the Coins at the bottom of the pink blocks to avoid the final Spinner. Jump past the Coins afterward and leap up to the Goal Ring. All right, you made it!



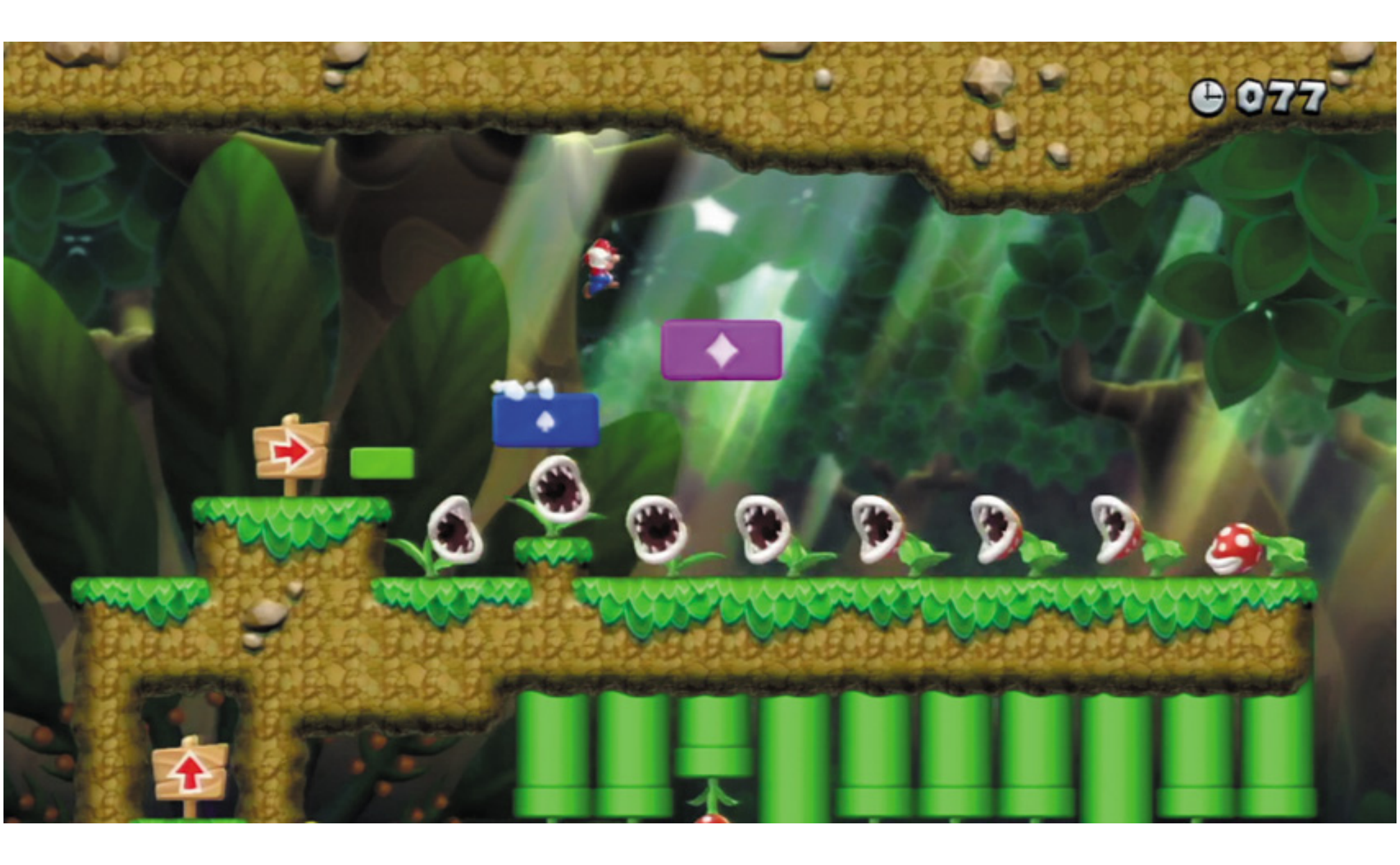
Extra Modes

Challenges: Boost Mode

Piranha Plant Hideaway

Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to reach the Goal Ring.

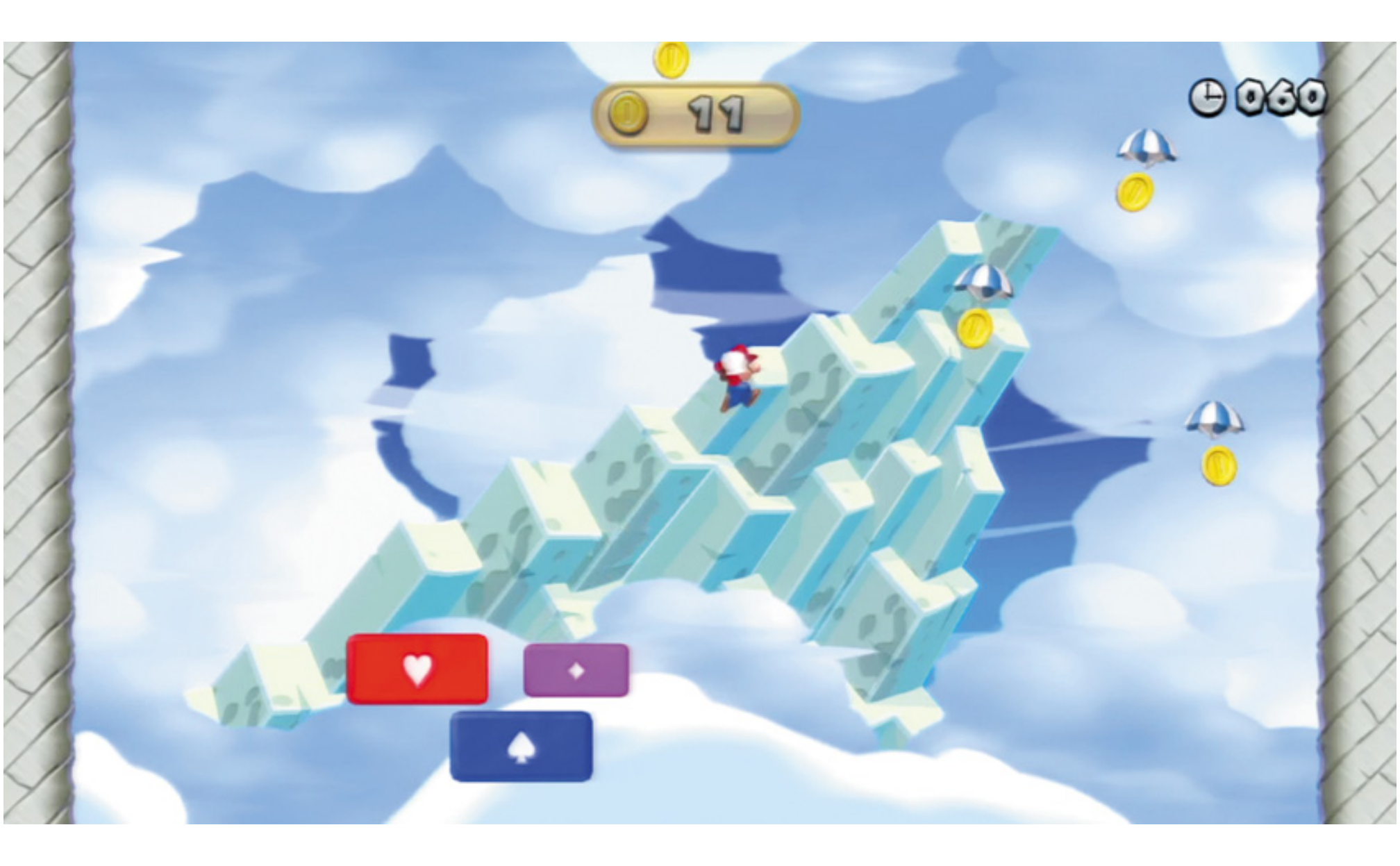


Boost Mode Challenges are two-player events—one gets to play as Mario, while the other uses the gamepad to assist Mario in reaching the goal. In this first Challenge, the gamepad player must place Boost Blocks in a clockwise fashion, so that Mario can safely move around the area without touching the Piranha Plants. When Mario nears the Goal Ring, the gamepad player should tap the Big Piranha Plant to stun it so that Mario can safely touch the Goal Ring. Now that's teamwork!

Coins in the Forecast

Difficulty:	★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to collect as many Coins as you can.

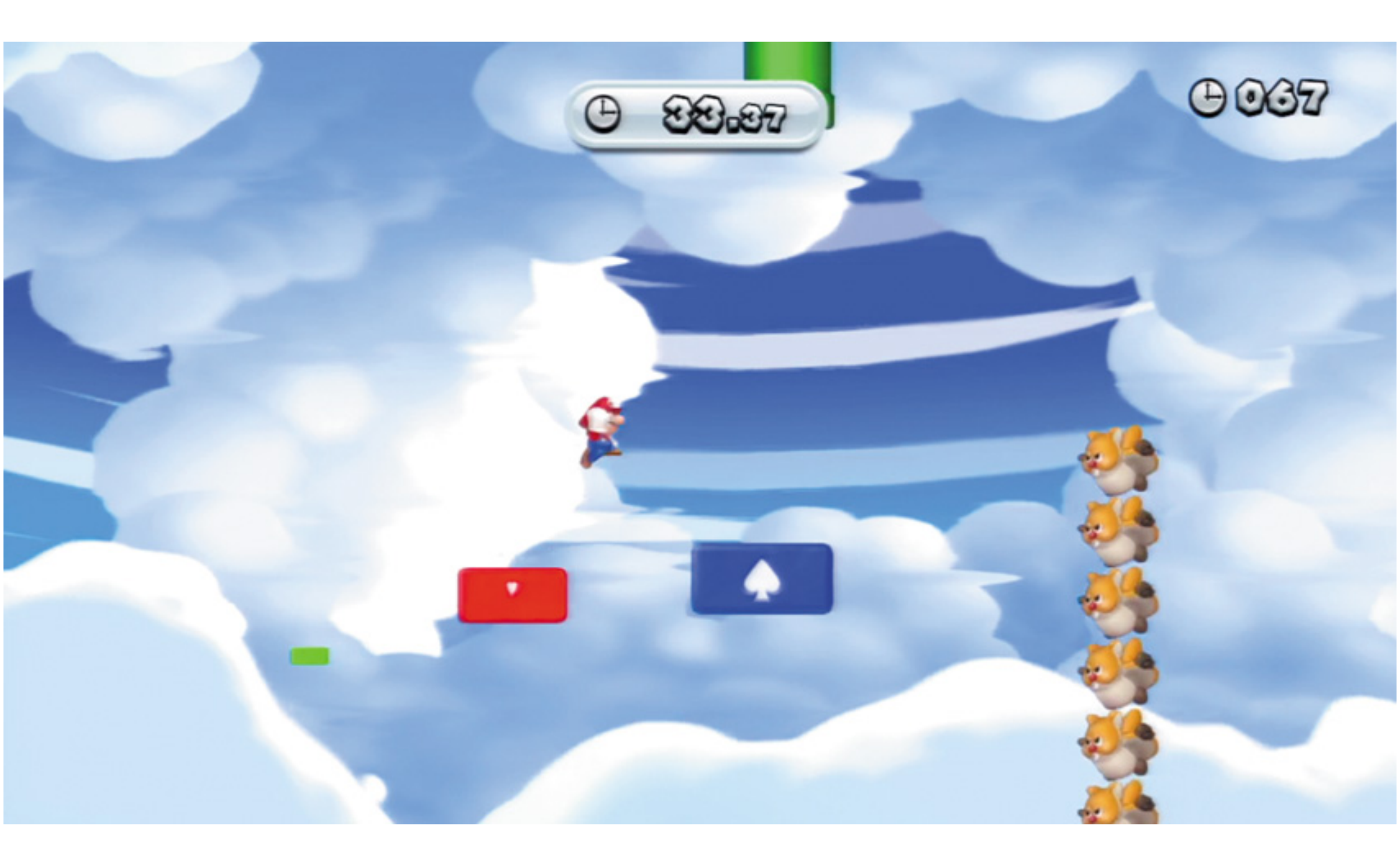


In this Boost Mode Challenge, Mario must jump around and collect Coins that slowly float down on a parachutes. There's no ground to stand on, so Mario relies on the gamepad player to place plenty of Boost Blocks for him to stand on. As the gamepad player, try to ensure there are at least three Boost Blocks in play at all times—this gives Mario options as to where he can jump. Mario only needs to grab 10 Coins to clear this event, and there are no hazards to worry about—except falling, of course!

When Waddlewings Attack

Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to reach the goal in 100.00 or less.



In this Challenge, Mario must make his way to a remote goal without being hit by a single Waddlewing. The gamepad player must place Boost Blocks and create a path for Mario to move along. The Waddlewings come in waves, forcing Mario to change elevation as he moves onward. You have plenty of time to work with, so take your time and use plenty of Boost Blocks. Later, when you're more accustomed to Boost Mode, you'll feel more comfortable spreading out the Boost Blocks and letting Mario make long leaps as he motors toward the goal!

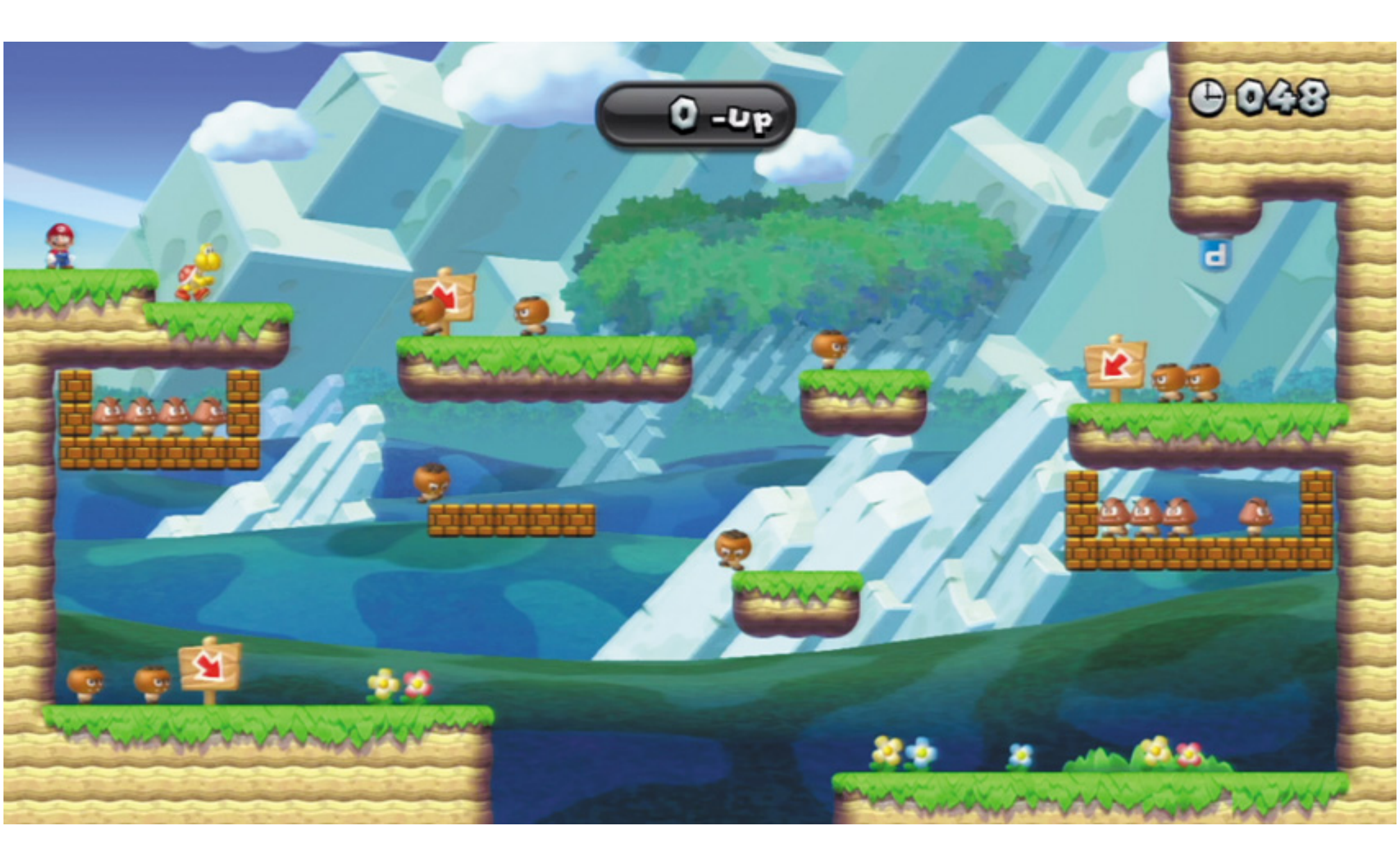
Tip

Bounce off the Waddlewings to gain extra height and distance when no Boost Blocks are about!

The Perpetual Shell

Difficulty:	★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to earn 1-Ups with the shell. The Challenge ends if the shell comes to a stop.

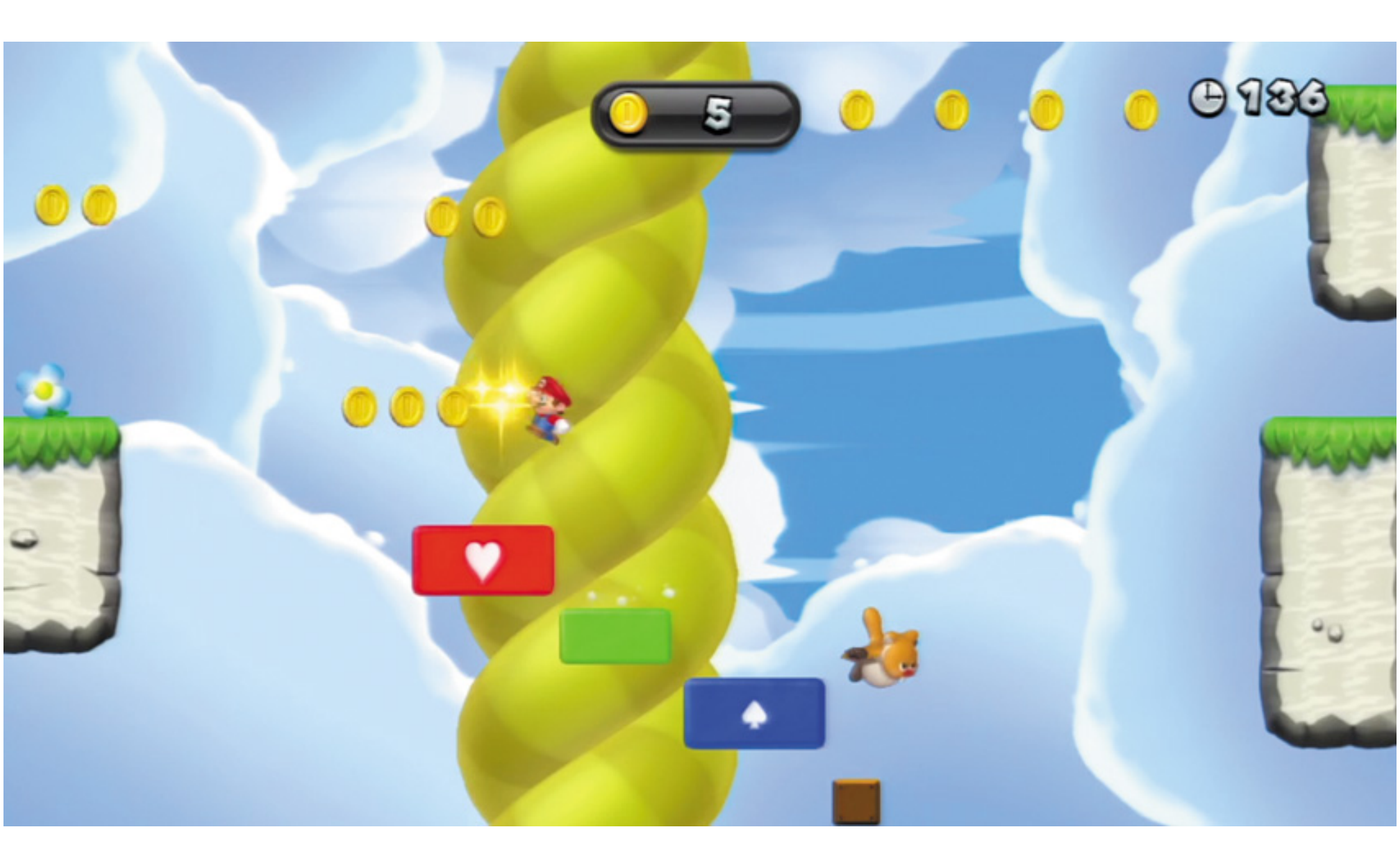


In this puzzling Challenge, the players must guide a shell into hitting a number of Goombrats. The gamepad player can kick things off by tapping the lone Koopa to stun it so that Mario can quickly toss the shell to the right. Mario must then chase after the shell as it wipes out the upper Goombrats, moving to hit the overhead P Switch on the right to turn all of the area's Brick Blocks into Coins—this causes the Goombrats on the Brick Blocks to fall. Meanwhile, the gamepad player must place Boost Blocks to guide the shell so that it falls from the P Switch ledge, hits the lone Goombrat on the central ledge, wipes out all of the Goombrats on the lower-left ledge, and then crosses the central pit to defeat the Goombrats on the right. You don't need to defeat every Goombrat to beat this Challenge, mind you—only if you want to score the Gold!

Boost Block Coin Stalk

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to collect Coins, and reach the Goal Ring.



Mario moves ever upward in this Boost Mode Challenge, aiming to claim as many Coins as possible while scaling a giant beanstalk. The beanstalk sprouts no Leaf Platforms, so the gamepad player must place plenty of Boost Blocks to help Mario collect the Coins on his way to the top. It helps to coordinate with your buddy and come up with a plan of how to move through the stage and collect the Coins. Mario must grab at least 60 Coins to clear this Challenge.

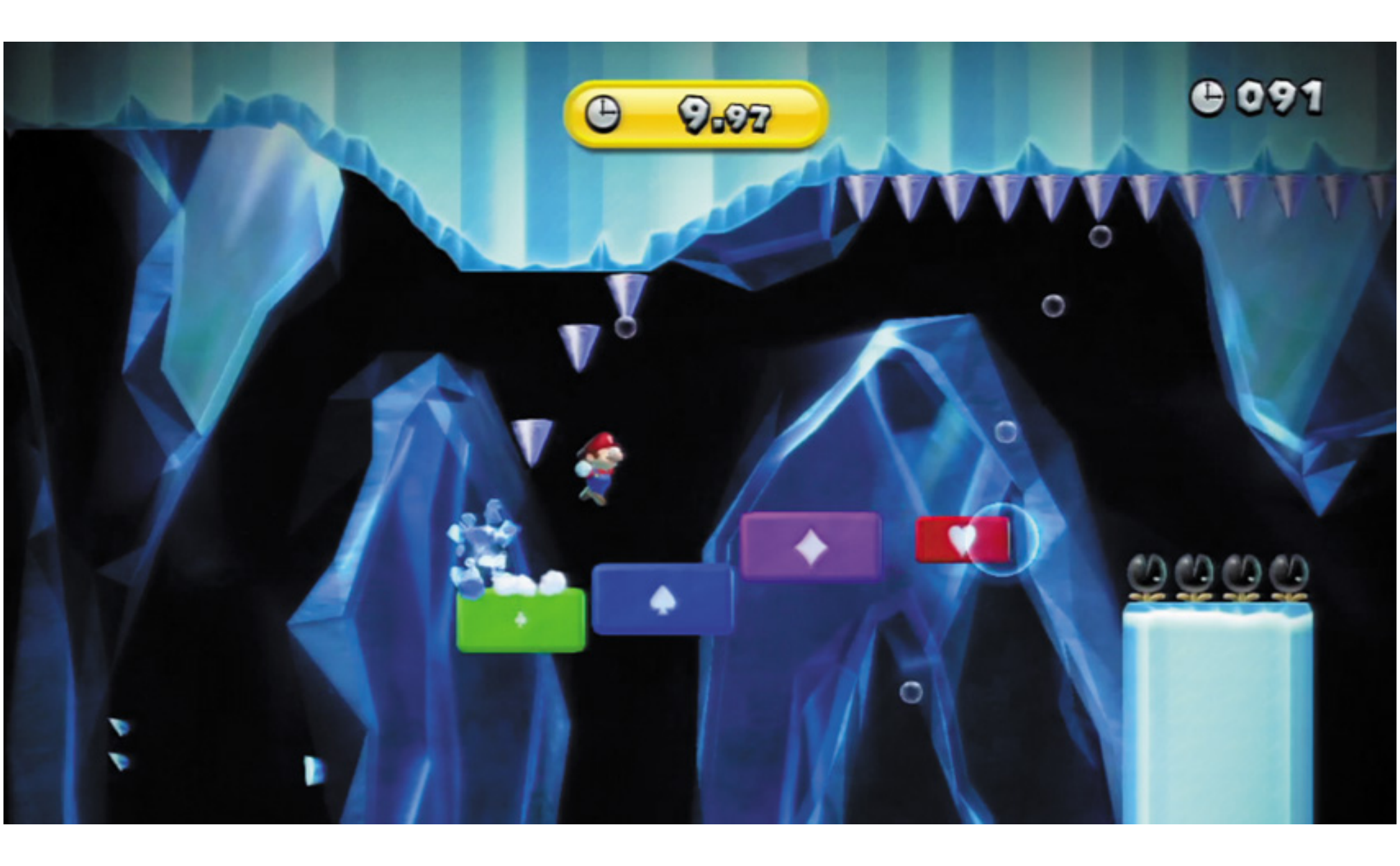
Tip

Touch the Red Ring and collect the Red Coins that appear—they count as Coins, too!

Icicle Falls

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to avoid the icicles, and reach the goal in 100.00 or less.



Mario must rely on his gamepad buddy as he rushes through this dangerous ice cave. Place plenty of Boost Blocks to guide Mario through the cave, keeping him as low as possible to give him enough time to move past the falling Icicles. Just keep placing those Boost Blocks ahead of Mario so that he can speed through the stage without pause. You've got plenty of time to work with, but you must stay ahead of those icicles if you wish to win Gold!

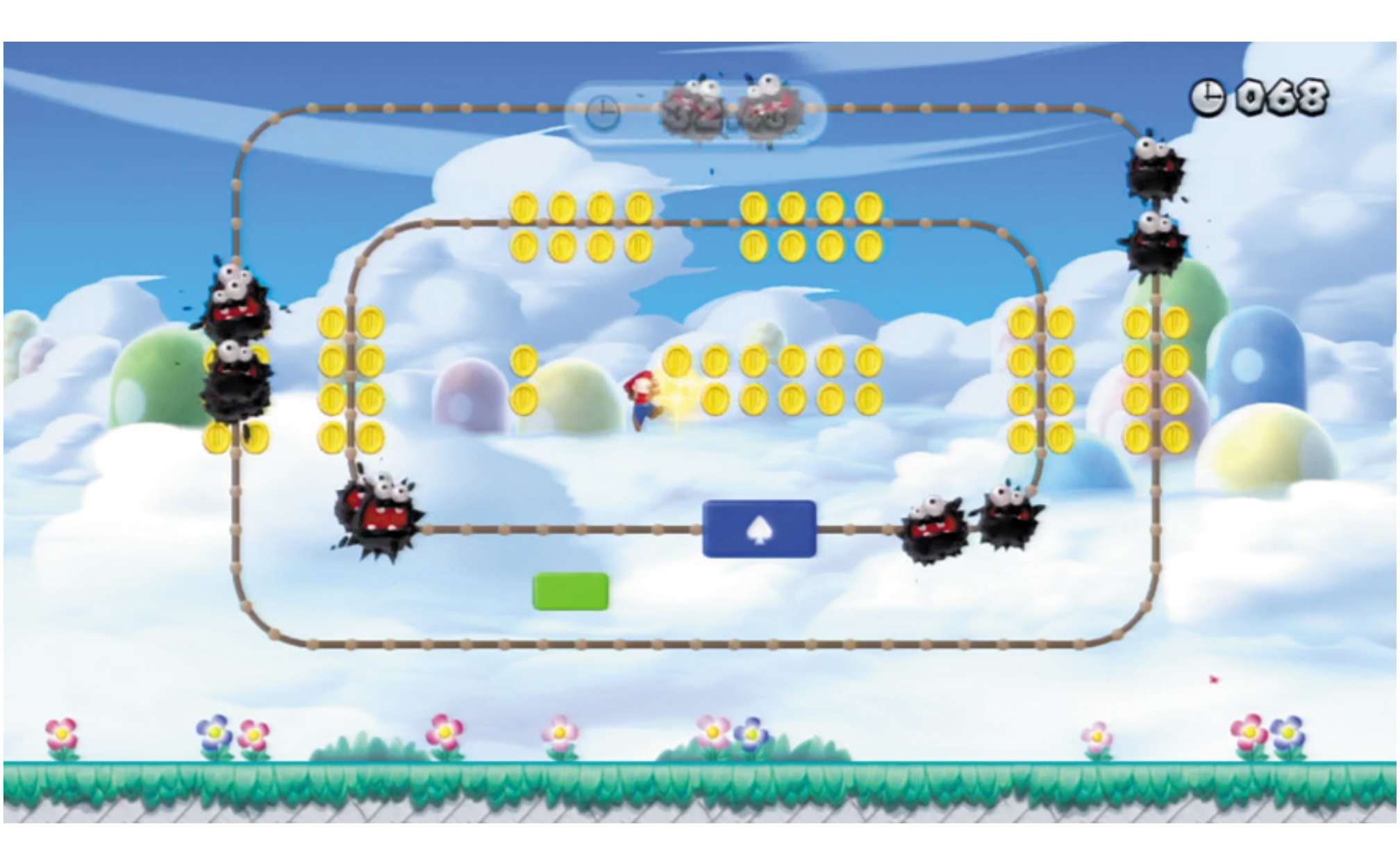
Tip

In a pinch, place Boost Blocks above Mario to protect him from falling icicles.

Fuzzy Alert!

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to collect all the Coins in 100.00 or less.



A mob of Fuzzies guards a host of floating Coins in this unique Challenge. Mario must avoid the Fuzzies while leaping up to grab Coins with the aid of the gamepad player's Boost Blocks. Simply place Boost Blocks in key areas so that Mario can jump up and collect all of the Coins. Work methodically, collecting one group of Coins before moving on to the next.

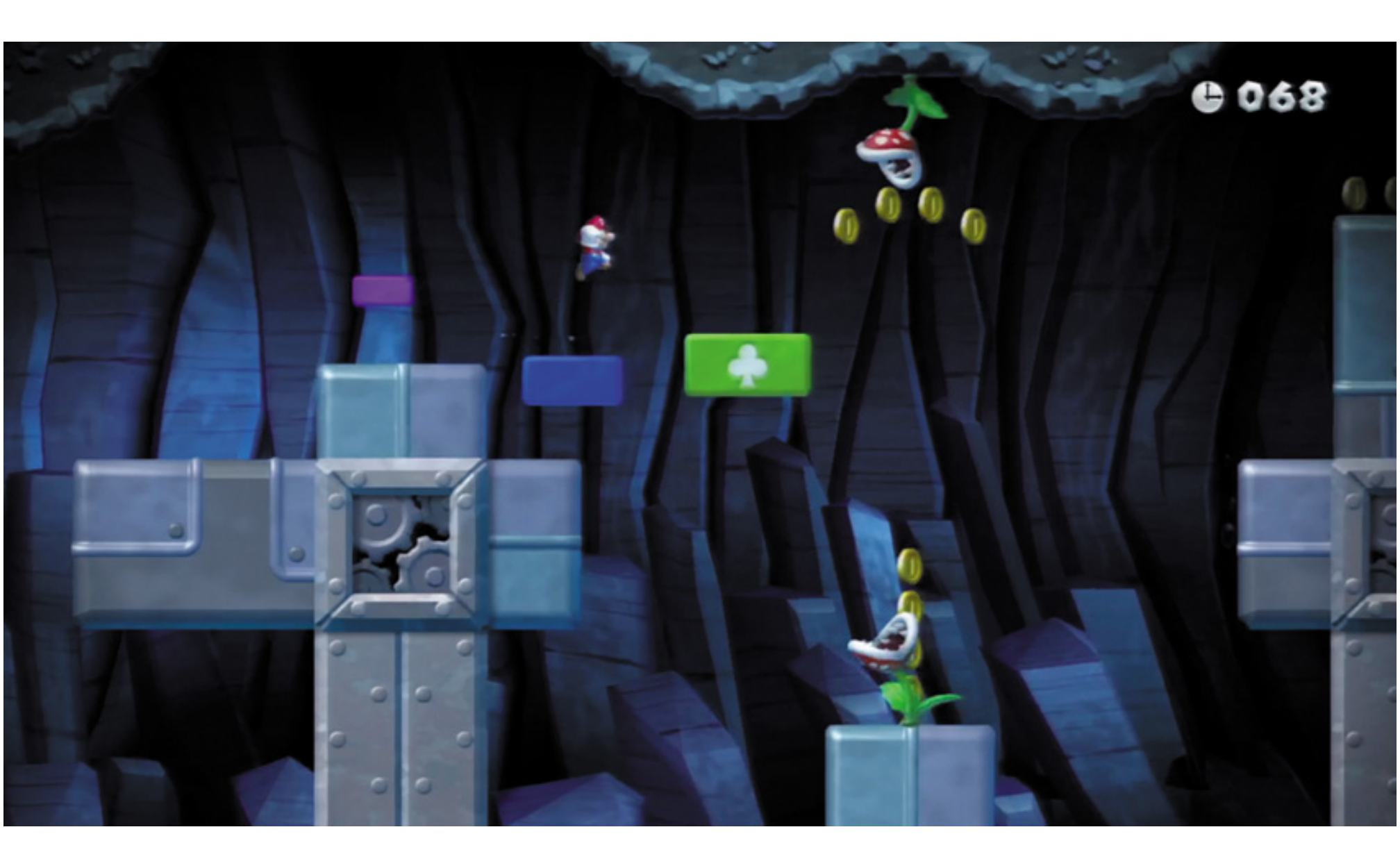
Tip

Try placing Boost Blocks to "wall off" the Fuzzies. The gamepad player can also stun Fuzzies by tapping them.

The High Road

Difficulty:	★★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to reach the goal ring without stepping on the moving platforms.



Mario must navigate a treacherous cave in this difficult Challenge, dodging enemies and using Boost Blocks to avoid landing on the many moving platforms. This is likely to be the most difficult Boost Mode Challenge you've faced thus far, so expect to experience some trial and error here. Whenever possible, spread out the Boost Blocks so that Mario can leap straight over the moving platforms. Allow Mario to deal with enemies, and simply focus on keeping the Boost Blocks coming so that Mario is never left to guess where to jump next. You have ample time to reach the finish, so don't feel like you have to rush!

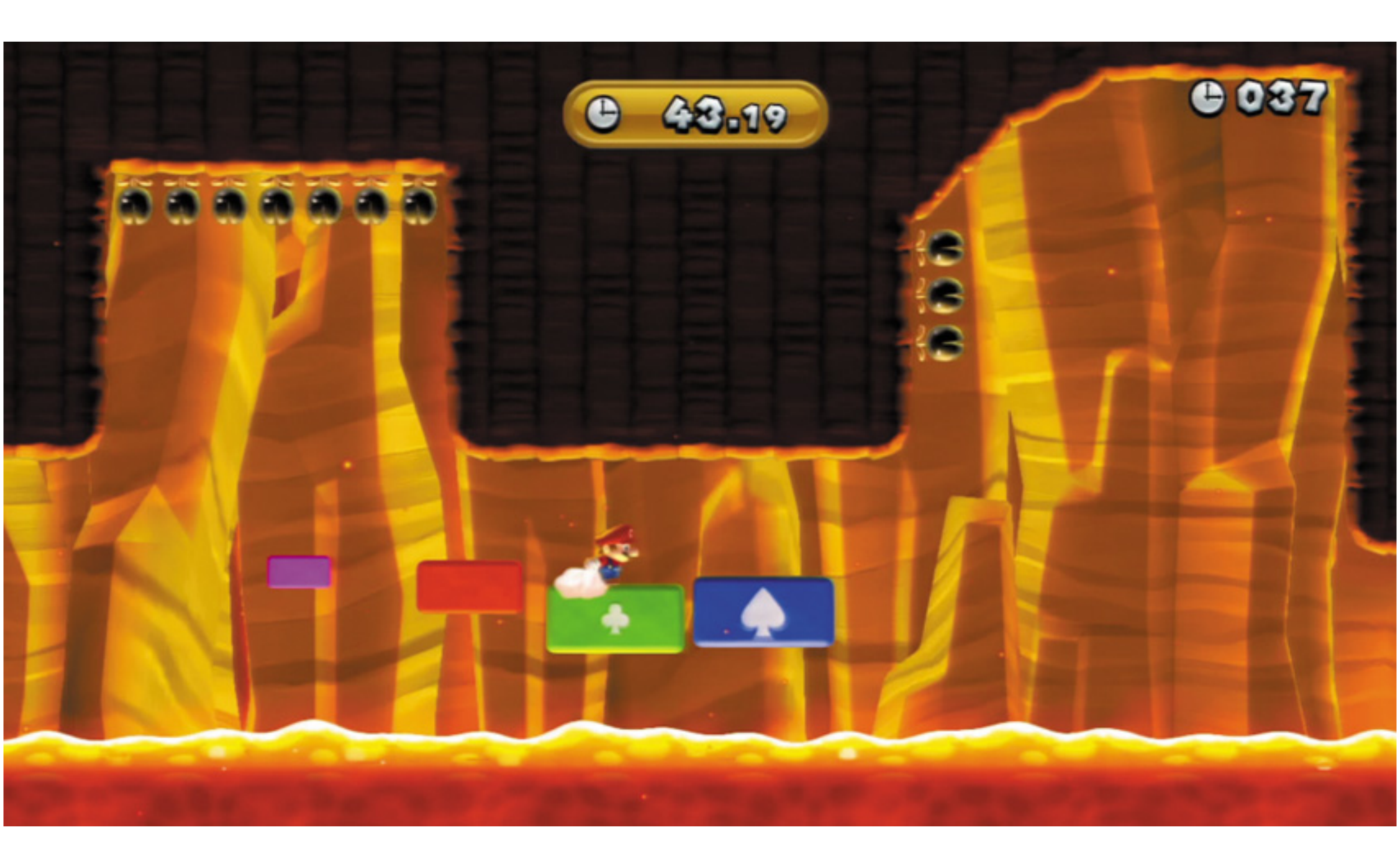
Tip

Mario can't touch the moving platforms, but he can catch his breath by landing on Blocks and ledges.

Three-Legged Lava Race

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to reach the goal in 80.00 or less.

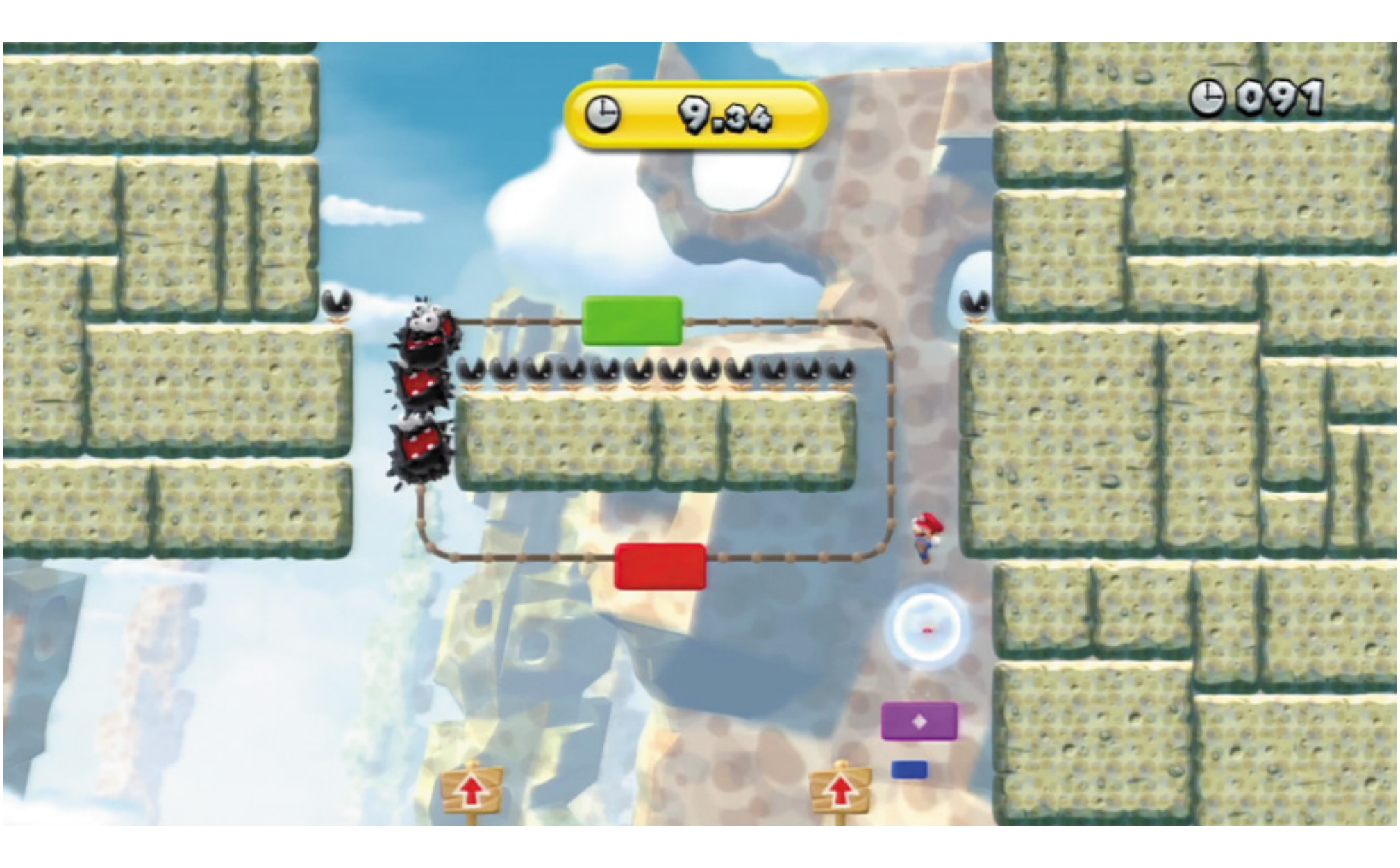


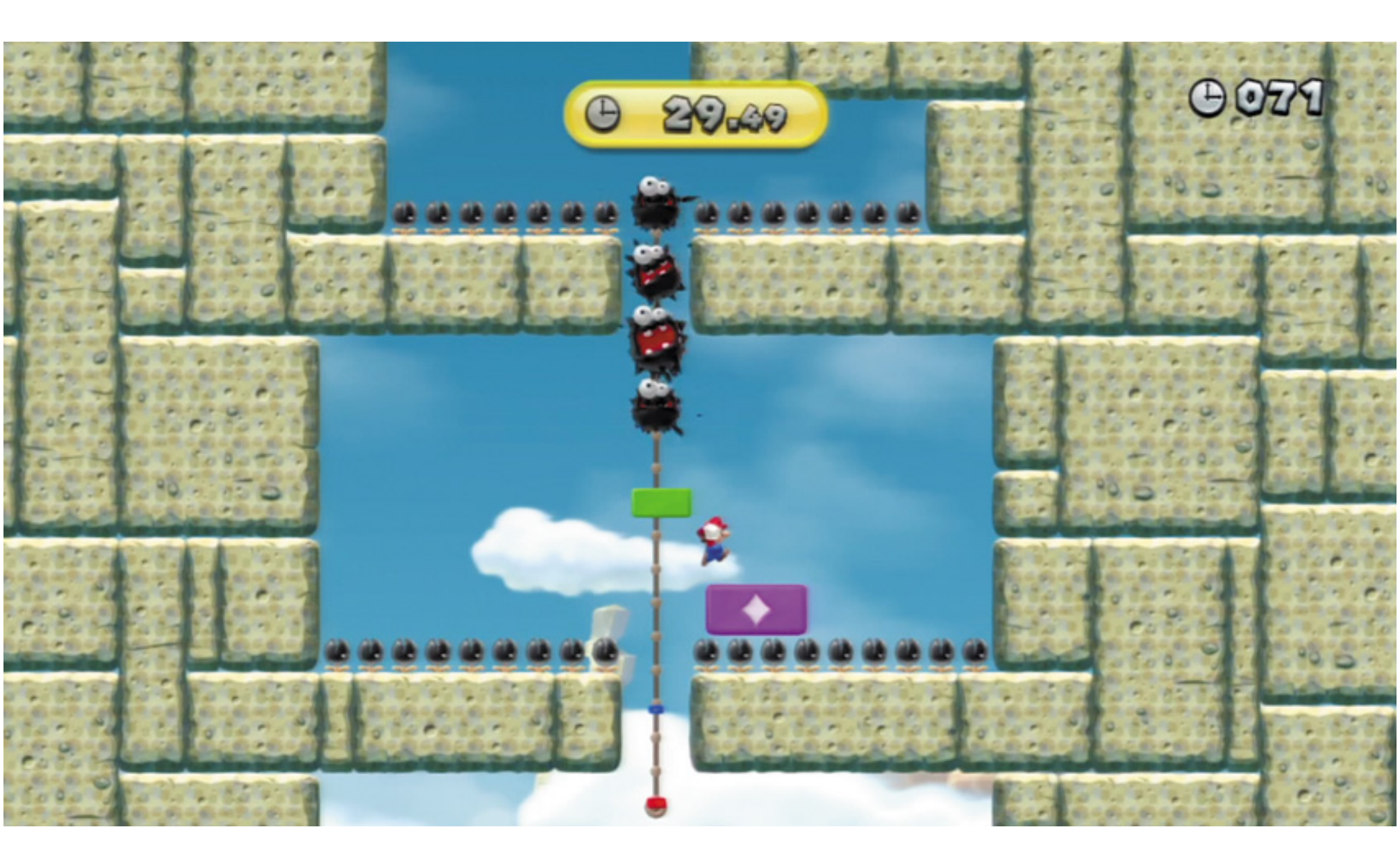
A rising tide of lava is a constant threat during this intense Challenge. Quickly lay down Boost Blocks so that Mario can motor along while the lava is low, then guide him up and around obstacles whenever the hot stuff rises. Set Boost Blocks right atop the Munchers so that Mario can simply leap across them. This stage isn't very long, but you've got to move quick if you're going for the Gold!

Fuzzy Cliff Climb

Difficulty:	★★★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to reach the goal in 100.00 or less.



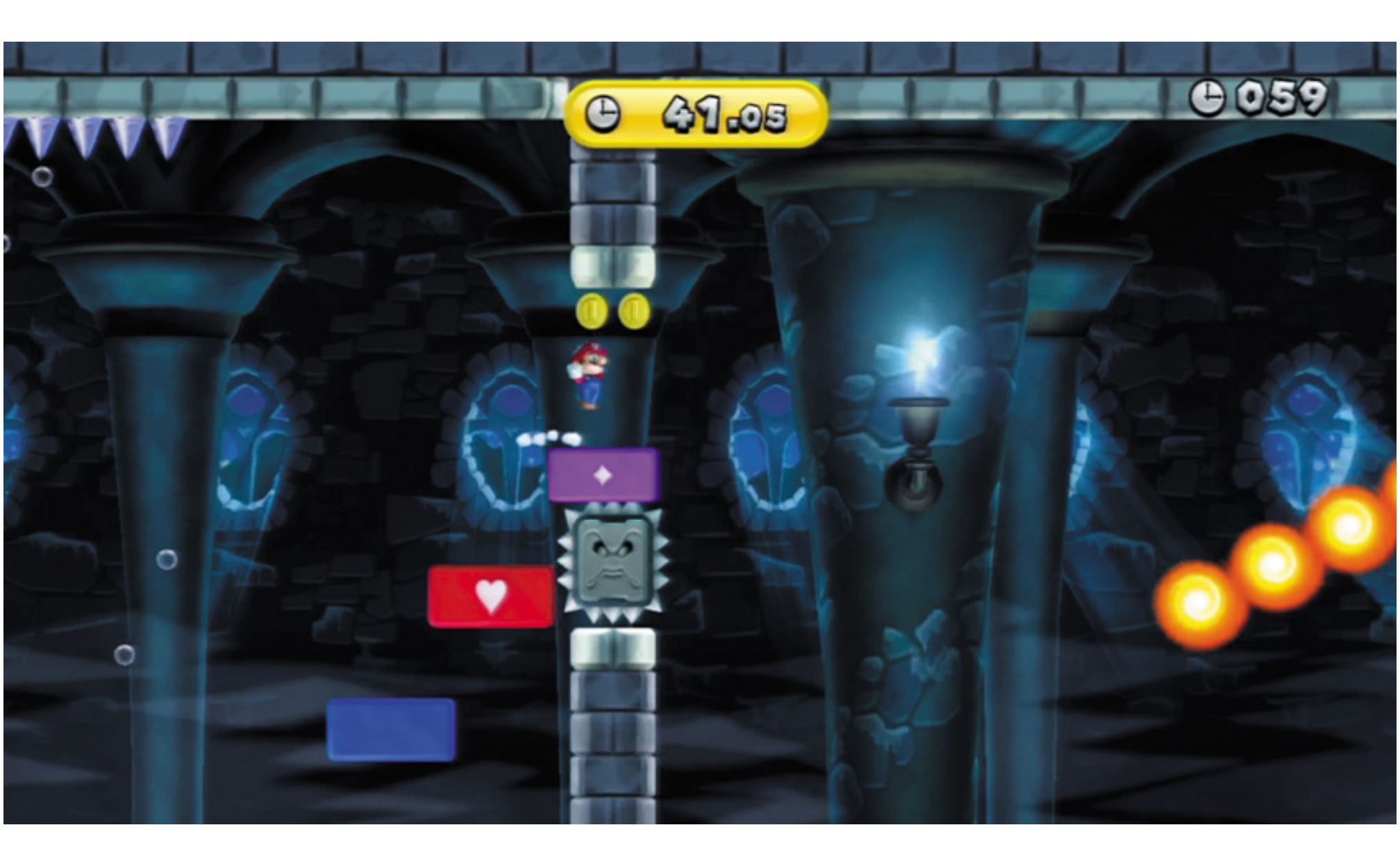


Mario must climb a Fuzzy-filled mountain in this difficult Challenge. The gamepad player can begin by tapping and stunning the first group of Fuzzies while Mario moves over to the right. Once all of the Fuzzies are grouped together, quickly place two Boost Blocks to trap them on the left. Mario should then start jumping in place so the gamepad player can place Boost Blocks beneath him—keep this up to help Mario climb past the Fuzzies before they're freed. When you reach the second group of Fuzzies, seal them off with a Boost Block while they're all up high, then place more Boost Blocks beneath Mario each time he jumps. Guide Mario over to a side nook before the Fuzzies escape, then allow the Fuzzies to move down low. Trap the Fuzzies afterward with another Boost Block, then guide Mario up to the goal.

Thwomp Castle Cash Flow

Difficulty:	★★★★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to collect all the Coins, and reach the goal in 100.00 or less.

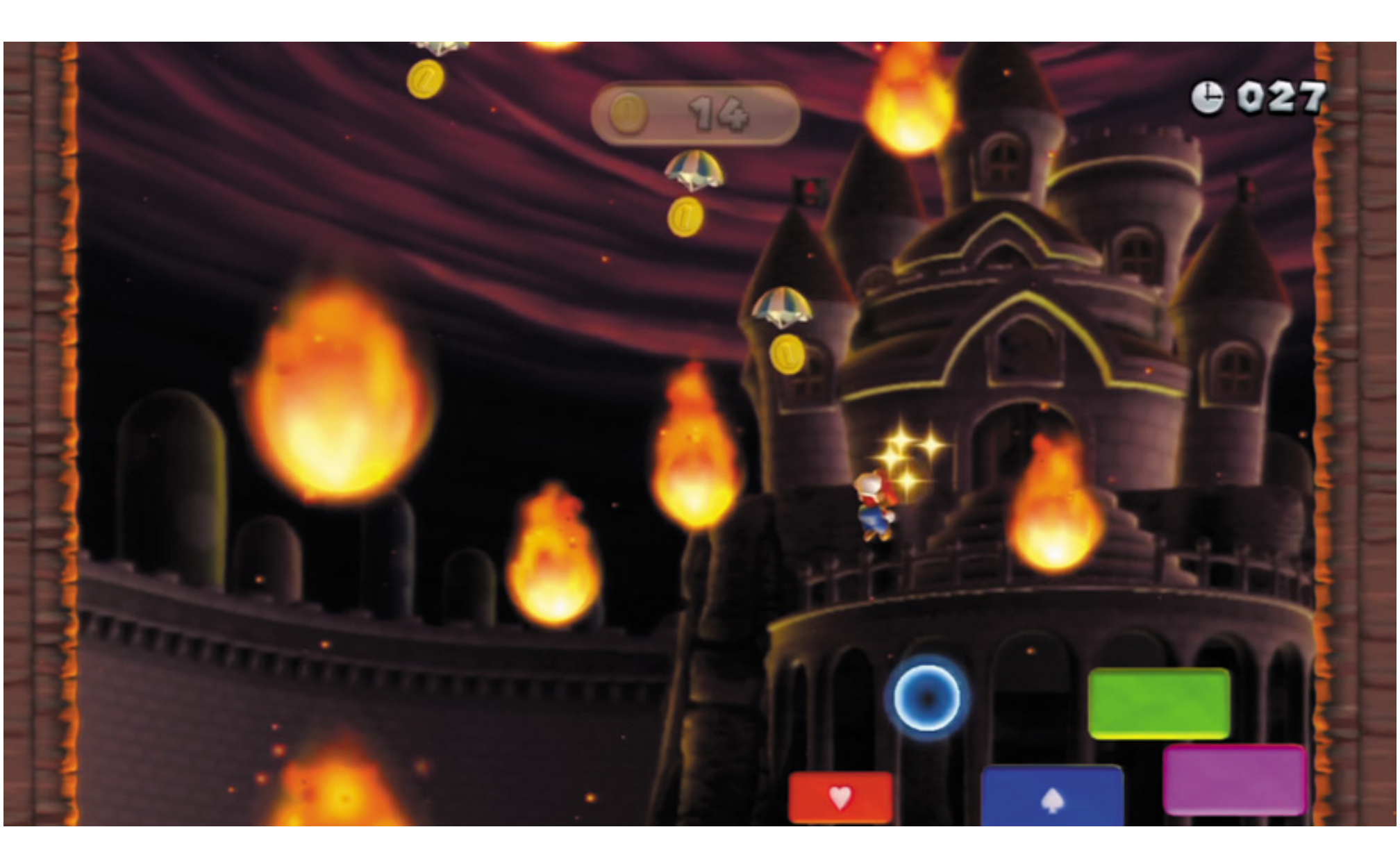


In this unique Challenge, the gamepad player must guide Mario through a Thwomp-filled castle, protecting him from falling Thwomps and Icicles as Mario moves to collect all of the castle's Coins. Place Boost Blocks beneath the Thwomps to prevent them from crashing down on Mario while he collects the Coins below them. When going after the higher Coins, Mario must sometimes bait the Thwomps into falling so that the gamepad player can place a Boost Block above the Thwomp and trap it. Then Mario can safely leap up and claim the Coins. Keep it up until you reach the finish!

Cloudy with a Chance of Fire

Difficulty:	★★★★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to collect as many Coins as possible.



This Boost Mode Challenge is similar to Coins in the Forecast—only this time, Mario must dodge falling meteors while he jumps around and collects Coins. Place plenty of Boost Blocks to give Mario options on where he can leap, and try to keep the Boost Blocks low so that Mario has enough time to avoid the meteors as he collects the falling Coins.

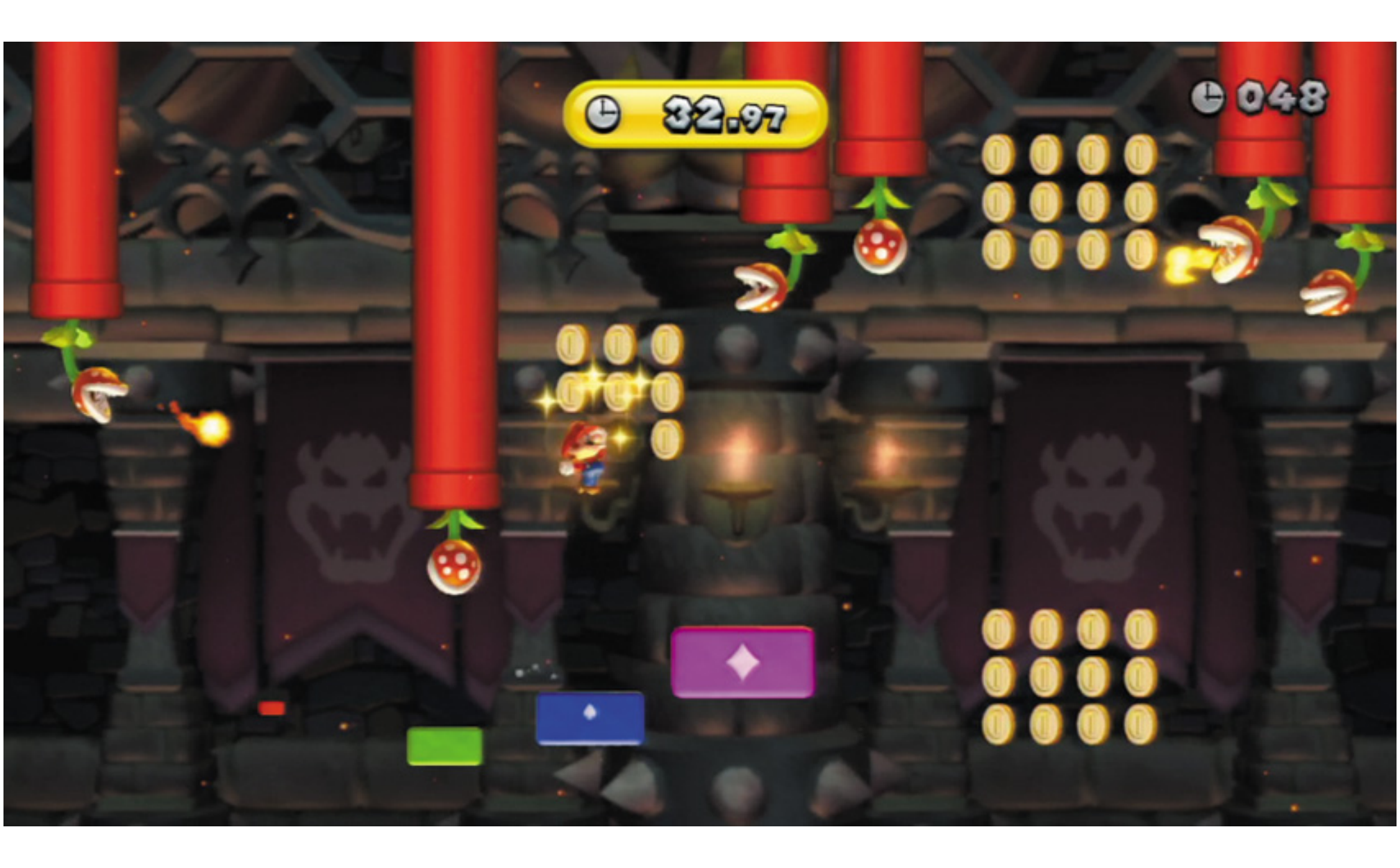
Tip

Tap meteors to destroy them before they hit Mario. You can also tap the Coins to pop their parachutes and cause them to drop toward Mario more quickly.

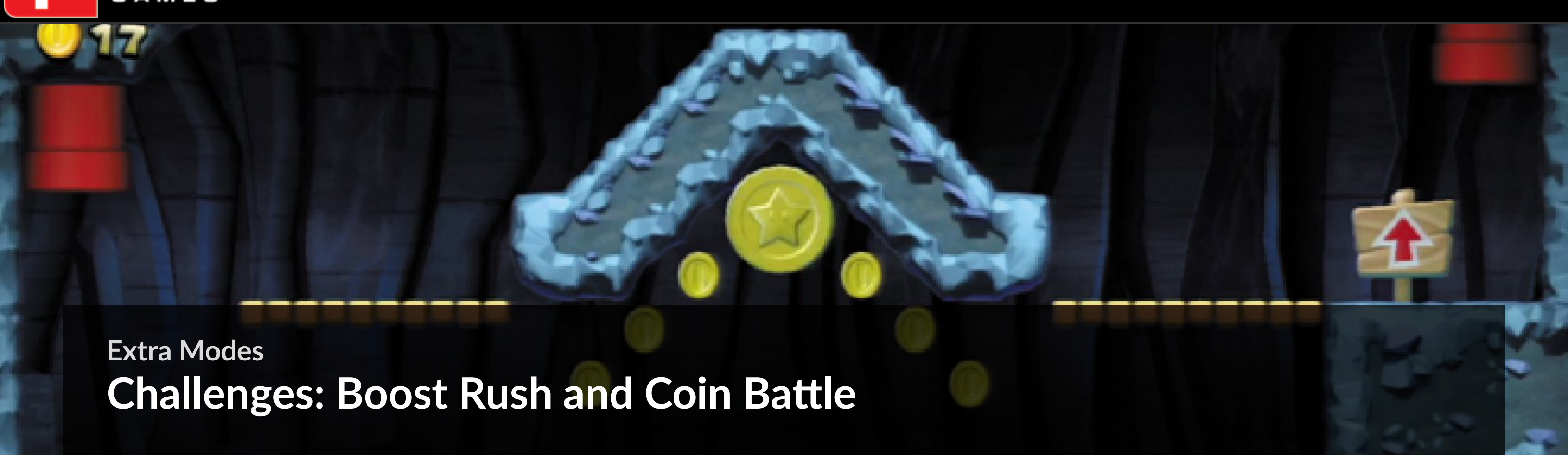
Ultimate Boost Blast

Difficulty:	★★★★★

- Objective: Use Boost Blocks to collect all the Coins, and reach the goal in 80.00 or less.



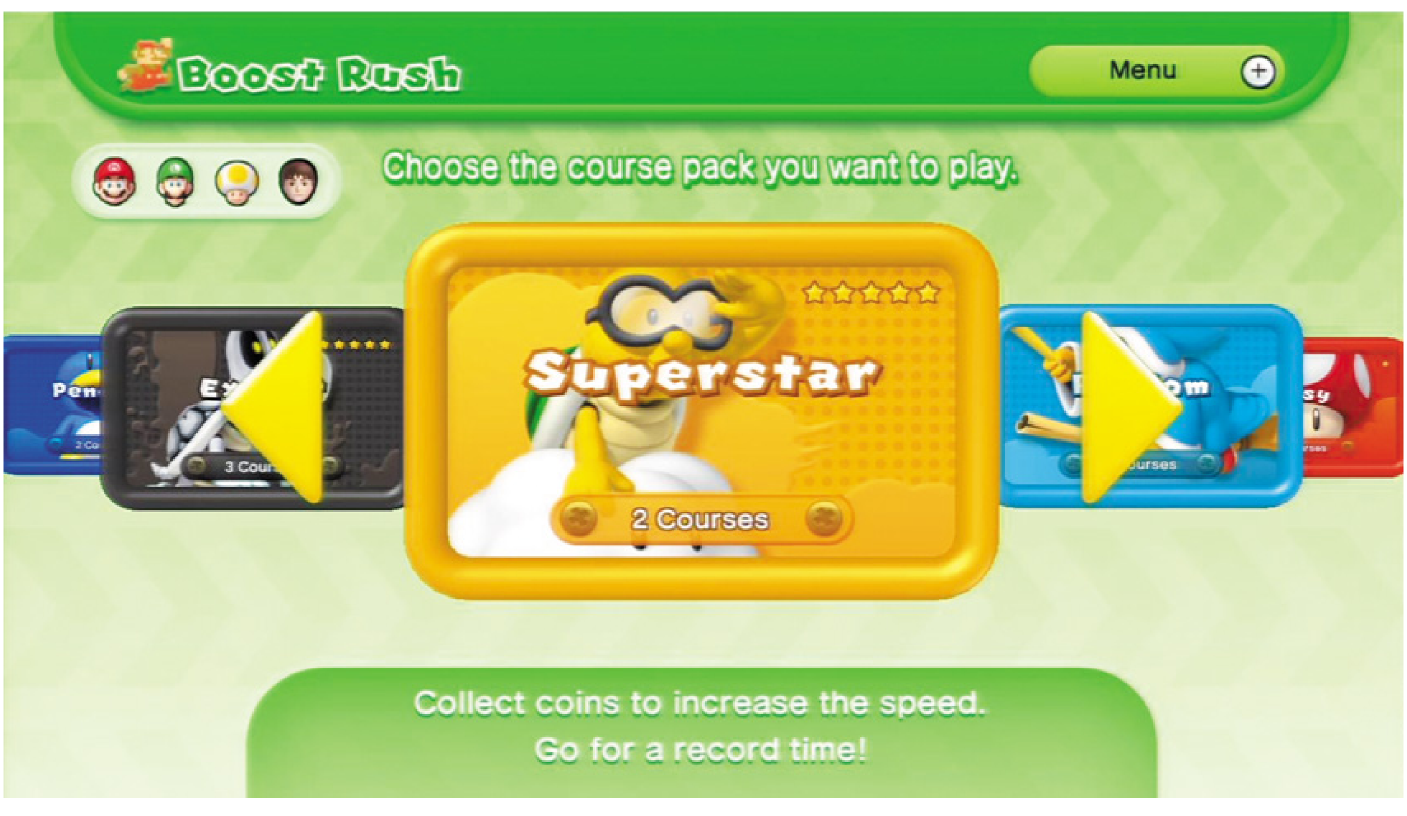
Danger lurks everywhere for Mario in this final Boost Mode Challenge. The gamepad player must place plenty of Boost Blocks to keep Mario from falling as he jumps around and collects Coins. A host of Fire Piranha Plants spit fireballs at Mario throughout this course—tap the Fire Piranha Plants before they fire to make them shrink back into their Pipes, and tap their fireballs to destroy them before Mario is singed. This course isn't long, as luck would have it—but the challenge just keeps heating up the whole way through!



Extra Modes

Challenges: Boost Rush and Coin Battle

Boost rush



Choose the course pack you want to play.

Collect coins to increase the speed. Go for a record time!

In Boost Rush, one or more players must make their way through a series of unique courses, avoiding hazards and enemies as they strive to collect as many Coins as possible. The more Coins the players collect, the faster the stage will scroll—this makes it more and more challenging to stay alive and collect those Coins!

Note

At first, only a few Boost Rush course packs will be available. Play through Story Mode to unlock many more Boost Rush courses! The courses range from fairly easy to quite challenging, so there's something for players of all skill levels.

Note

One player can use the gamepad to place Boost Blocks in Boost Rush mode, helping (or hindering) the other players!

Boost Rush is a chaotic mode, and the variable speed dynamic makes it tough to provide specific course strategies. Nothing unlocks when you play Boost Rush—these games are just for fun! Keep the following tips in mind, though, and see if you can set some record times:

- Go for those Coins! The more you collect, the faster the stage will scroll, and the quicker you'll arrive at the goal. Plus, the player with the most Coins will be the winner!
- Grab Power-Ups! They'll help keep you alive and can give you an advantage over your rivals. Super Acorns are especially valuable!
- Snatch those Star Coins! Each one is worth 20 regular Coins, so they're well worth the effort.
- Break free of bubbles! You return in a bubble each time you're defeated, but you can't collect Coins while you're traveling in bubble form. Hit the ZR Button (or shake your Wii Remote) to fly forward in your bubble, and press the jump button when you're ready to break free!
- Stay alive! You can only be defeated so many times before the game ends. When multiple players are present, you all share the same pool of lives. Hang in there and make sure you make it to the goal!

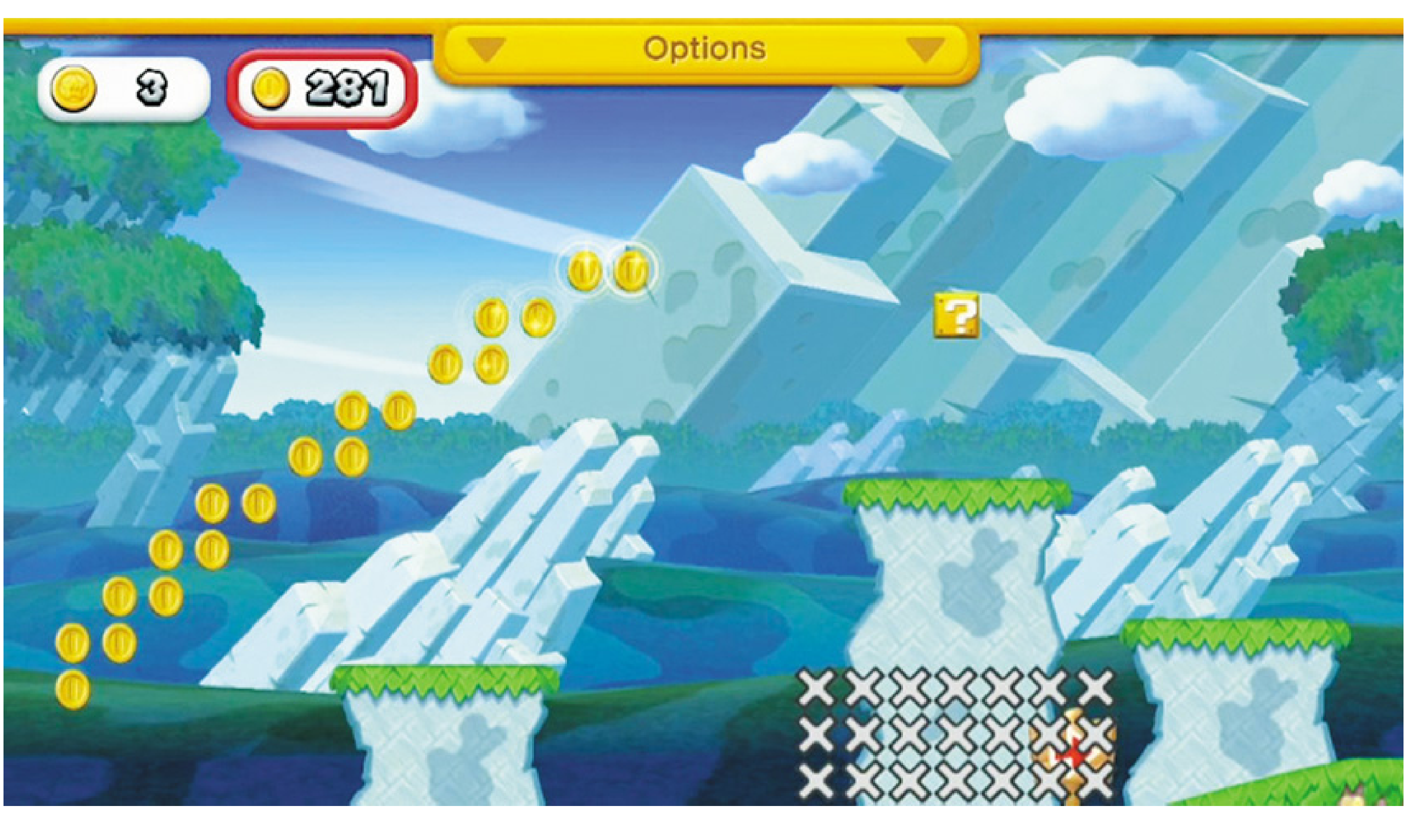
Coin Battle

Coin Battle is a competitive mode in which two players or two teams of players compete to collect Coins. The team with the most Coins at the end of each event will be the winner, so bust out your best moves and out-score your rivals!

Note

Like Boost Rush, one player may use the gamepad to place Boost Blocks during Coin Battle matches, helping (or hindering) the other players.

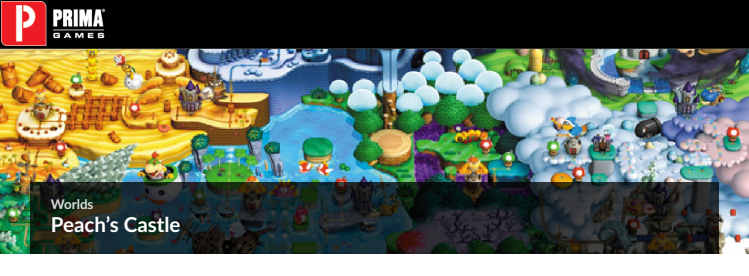
Many of the aforementioned Boost Rush tips apply to Coin Battles. Use Power-Ups whenever possible, and try to avoid being defeated—it'll only set your team back! Go after Star Coins to score big bonuses, and outmaneuver your opponents to grab Coins faster than them.



You won't unlock anything by playing Coin Battles, but you will have plenty of fun—especially when you use the Coin Edit feature to modify the Coin Battle courses! It's easy and fun—just use the gamepad, and tap where you'd like to place Coins. Tap Coins you've placed to remove them. You can even place Star Coins! Let your creative juices flow as you use the Coin Edit feature to create your own, unique Coin Battle courses.

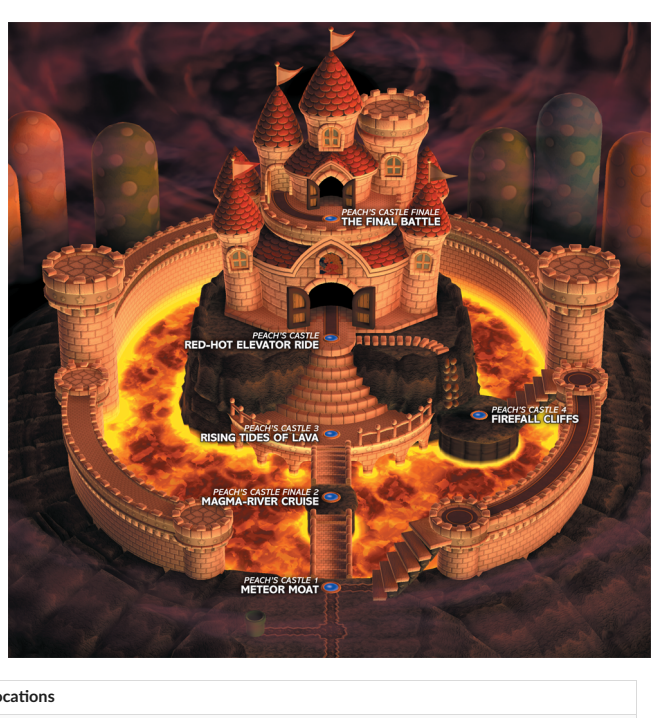
Note

You can't place Coins on any areas that are marked with X's, but everywhere else is fair game!



Worlds

Peach's Castle

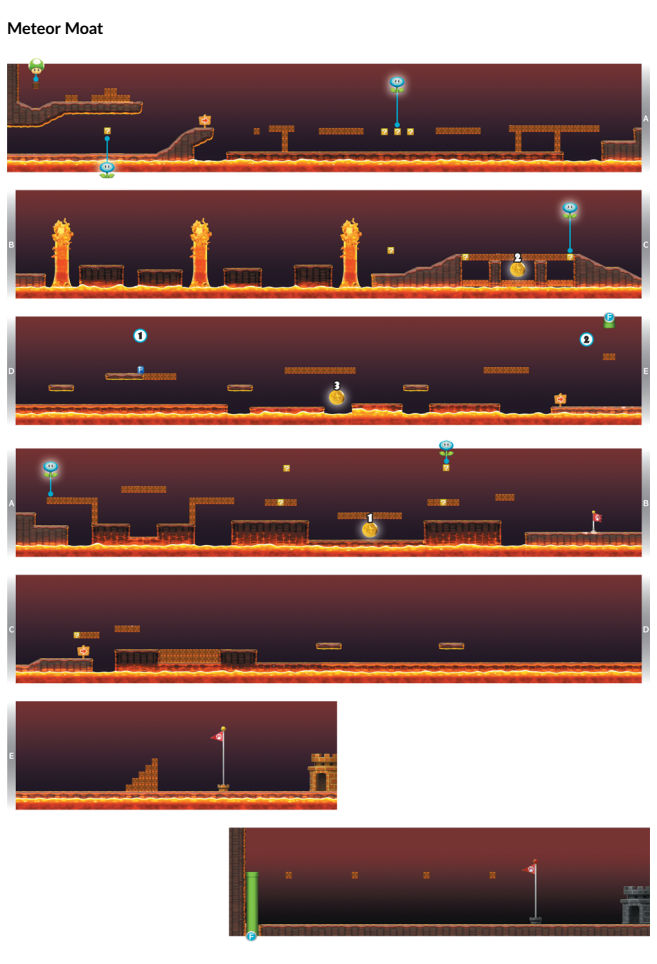


Locations

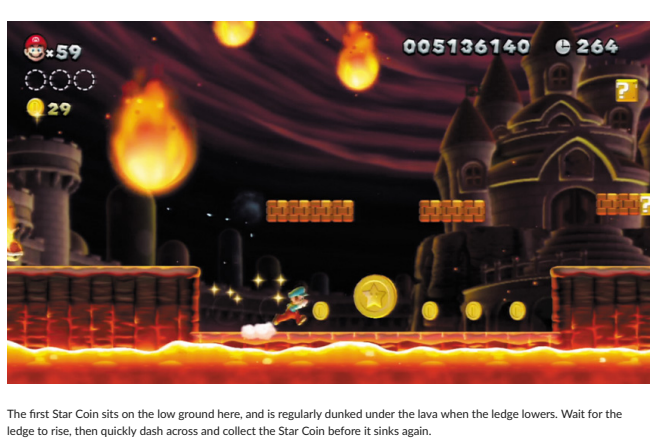
Levels	Toad Houses	Map Enemies	Boss
6	None	None	Bowser

Peach's Castle 1

Meteor Moat



STAR COIN 1



The first Star Coin sits on the low ground here, and is regularly dunked under the lava when the ledge lowers. Wait for the ledge to rise, then quickly dash across and collect the Star Coin before it sinks again.

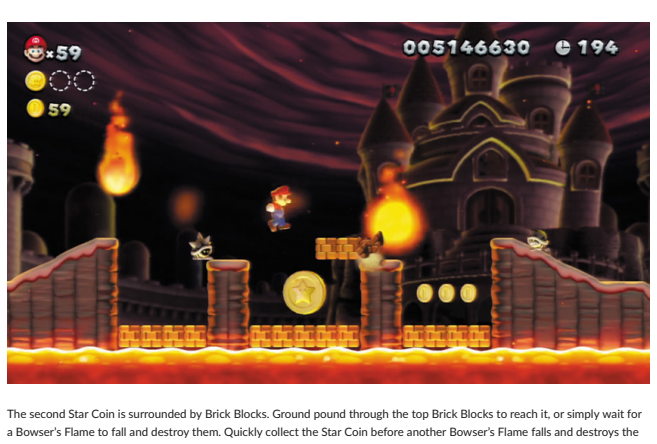
Caution

Beware of those falling Bowser's Flames! They'll damage you and destroy Brick Blocks, but they won't harm enemies. (No fair!)

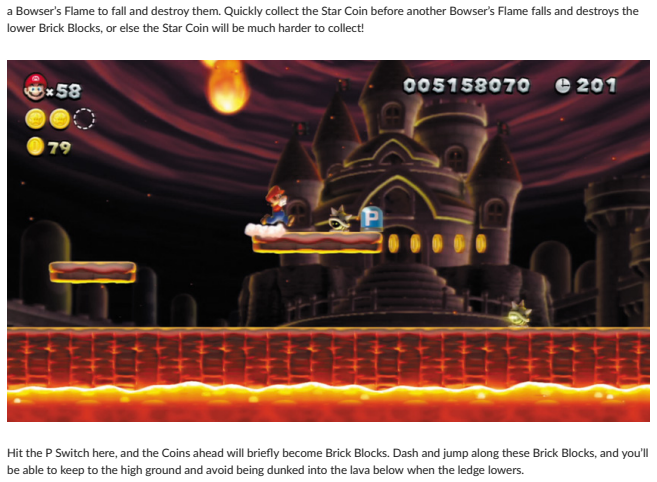
Tip

Carry frozen enemies as you move through this stage, and they'll protect you from those falling Bowser's Flames!

STAR COIN 2

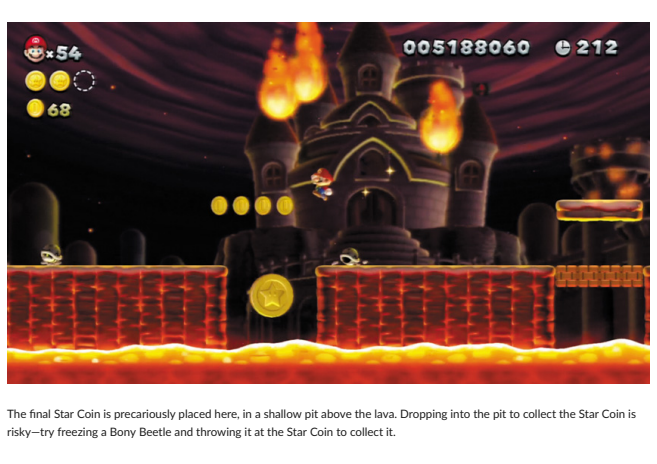


The second Star Coin is surrounded by Brick Blocks. Ground pound through the top Brick Blocks to reach it, or simply wait for a Bowser's Flame to fall and destroy them. Quickly collect the Star Coin before another Bowser's Flame falls and destroys the lower Brick Blocks, or else the Star Coin will be much harder to collect!

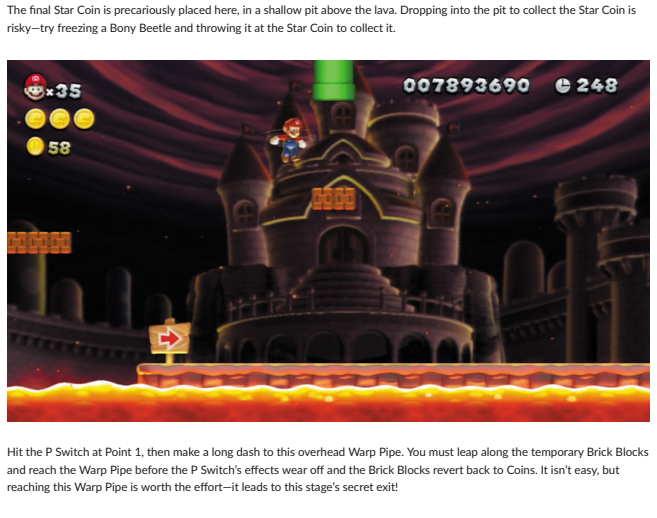


Hit the P Switch here, and the Coins ahead will briefly become Brick Blocks. Dash and jump along these Brick Blocks, and you'll be able to keep to the high ground and avoid being dunked into the lava below when the ledge lowers.

STAR COIN 3



The final Star Coin is precariously placed here, in a shallow pit above the lava. Dropping into the pit to collect the Star Coin is risky—try freezing a Bony Beetle and throwing it at the Star Coin to collect it.



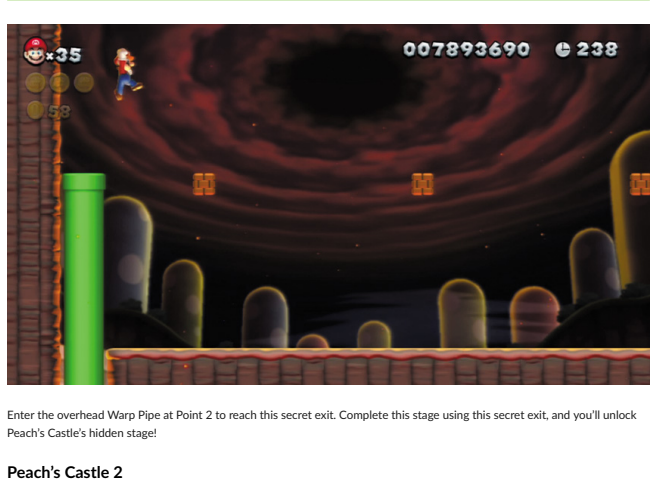
Hit the P Switch at Point 1, then make a long dash to this overhead Warp Pipe. You must leap along the temporary Brick Blocks and reach the Warp Pipe before the P Switch's effects wear off and the Brick Blocks revert back to Coins. It isn't easy, but reaching this Warp Pipe is worth the effort—it leads to this stage's secret exit!

Tip

Flying Squirrel Mario can enter the overhead Warp Pipe that leads to the secret exit more easily with a flying squirrel jump.

Tip

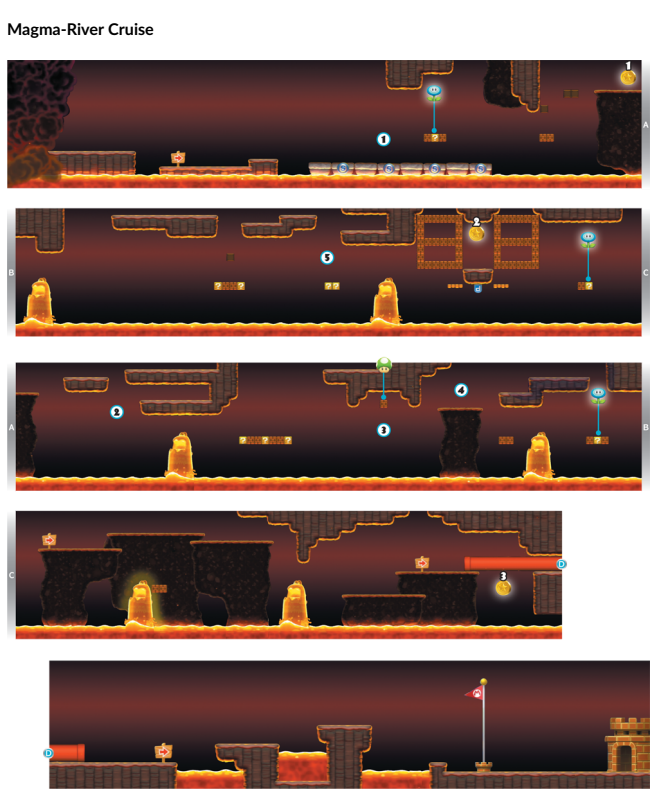
Try spin jumping in midair while you sail across the longer gaps. It adds a little distance to your jumps!

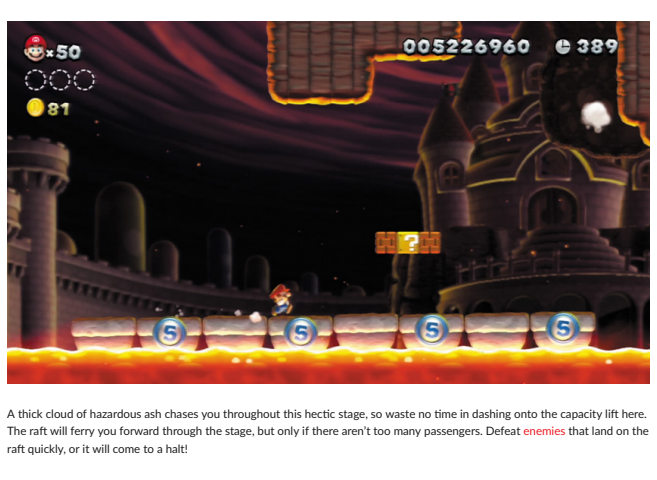


Enter the overhead Warp Pipe at Point 2 to reach this secret exit. Complete this stage using this secret exit, and you'll unlock Peach's Castle's hidden stage!

Peach's Castle 2

Magma-River Cruise





A thick cloud of hazardous ash chases you throughout this hectic stage, so waste no time in dashing onto the capacity lift here. The raft will ferry you forward through the stage, but only if there aren't too many passengers. Defeat enemies that land on the raft quickly, or it will come to a halt!

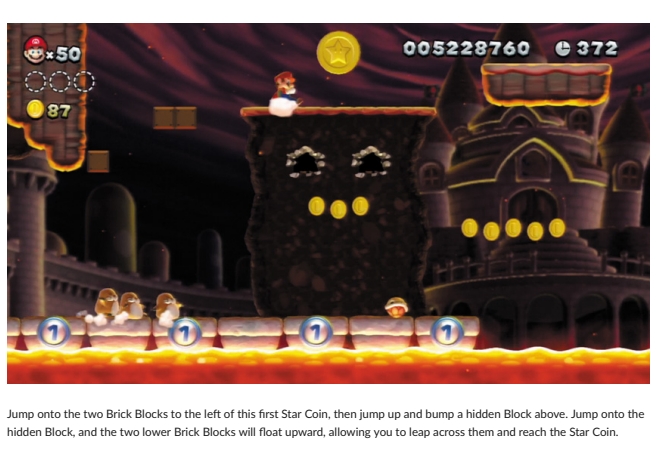
Note

The numbers on the side of the raft tell you how many passengers can be carried. When the numbers fall to zero, the raft stops—hurry and kick off those stowaways!

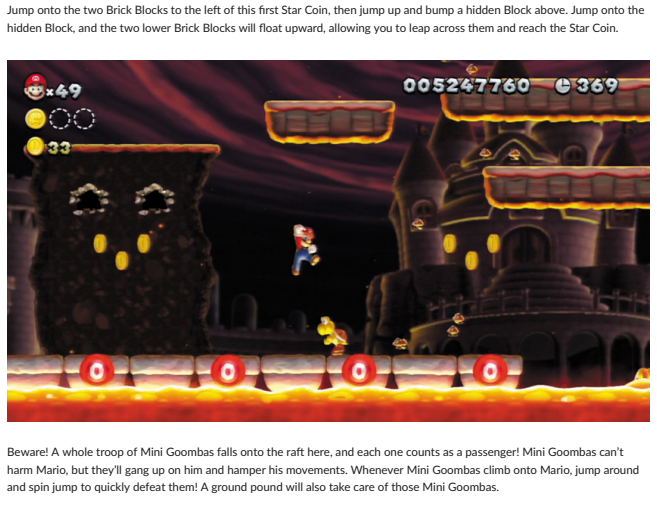
Tip

Use Koopa shells to quickly clear the raft of unwanted passengers. You can also freeze and throw enemies to achieve the same result!

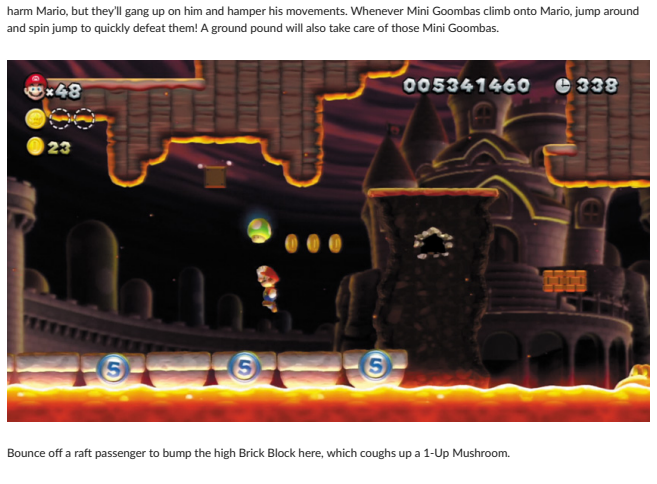
STAR COIN 1



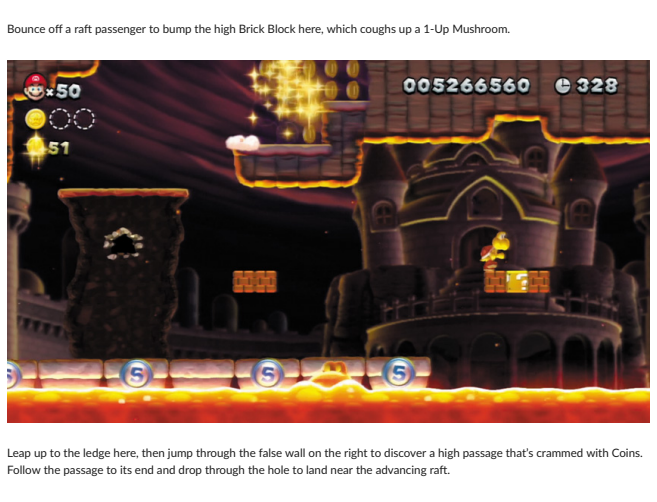
Jump onto the two Brick Blocks to the left of this first Star Coin, then jump up and bump a hidden Block above. Jump onto the hidden Block, and the two lower Brick Blocks will float upward, allowing you to leap across them and reach the Star Coin.



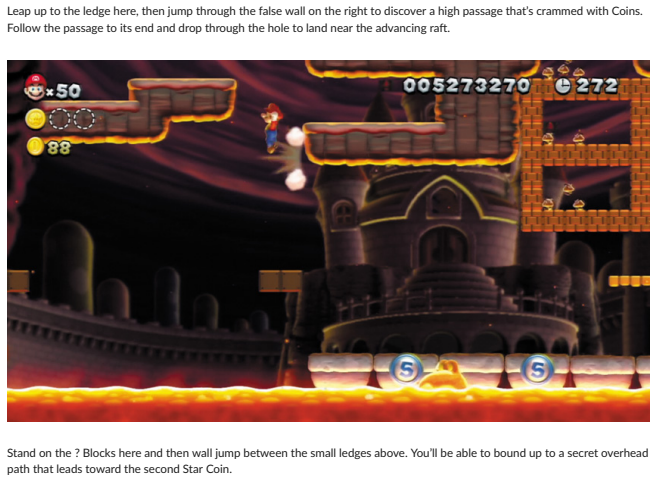
Beware! A whole troop of Mini Goombas falls onto the raft here, and each one counts as a passenger! Mini Goombas can't harm Mario, but they'll gang up on him and hamper his movements. Whenever Mini Goombas climb onto Mario, jump around and spin jump to quickly defeat them! A ground pound will also take care of those Mini Goombas.



Bounce off a raft passenger to bump the high Brick Block here, which coughs up a 1-Up Mushroom.

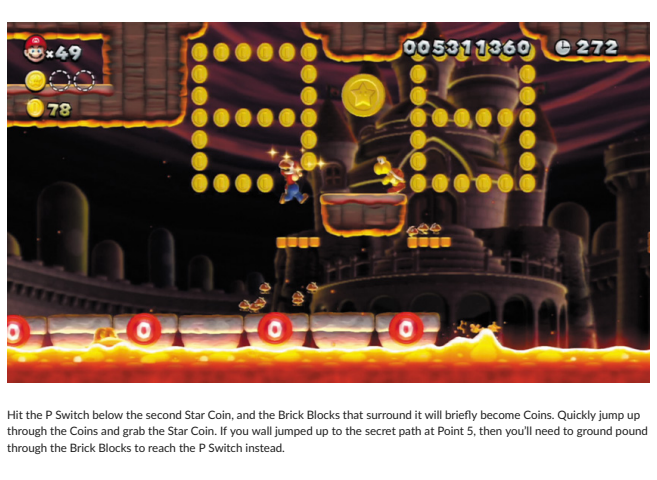


Leap up to the ledge here, then jump through the false wall on the right to discover a high passage that's crammed with Coins. Follow the passage to its end and drop through the hole to land near the advancing raft.



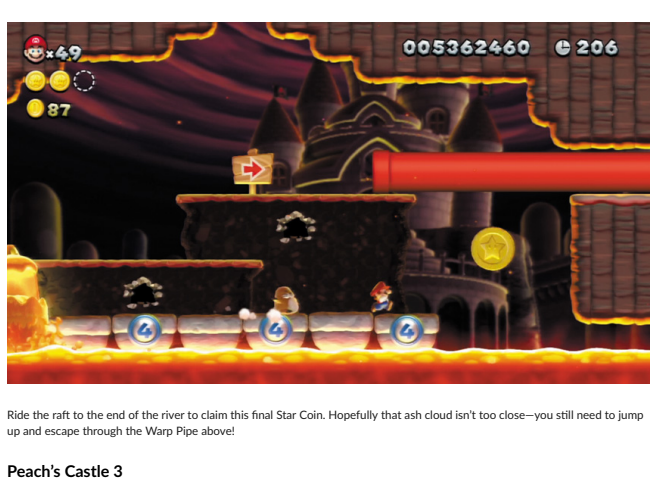
Stand on the ? Blocks here and then wall jump between the small ledges above. You'll be able to bound up to a secret overhead path that leads toward the second Star Coin.

STAR COIN 2



Hit the P Switch below the second Star Coin, and the Brick Blocks that surround it will briefly become Coins. Quickly jump up through the Coins and grab the Star Coin. If you wall jumped up to the secret path at Point 5, then you'll need to ground pound through the Brick Blocks to reach the P Switch instead.

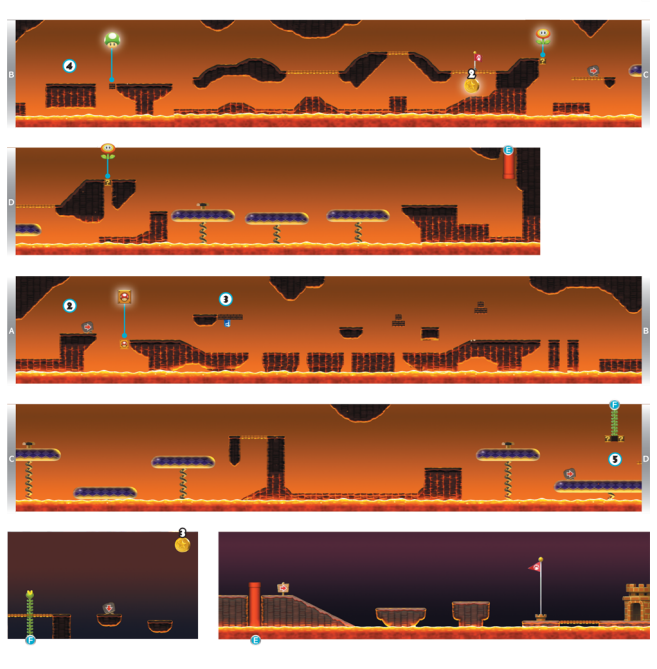
STAR COIN 3



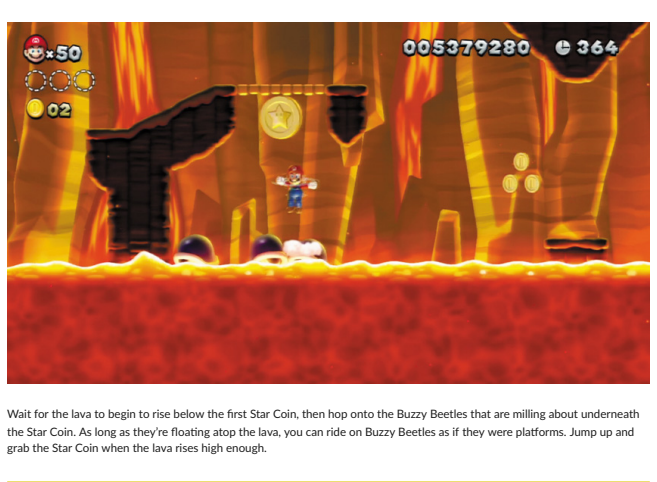
Ride the raft to the end of the river to claim this final Star Coin. Hopefully that ash cloud isn't too close—you still need to jump up and escape through the Warp Pipe above!

Peach's Castle 3

Rising Tides of Lava



STAR COIN 1



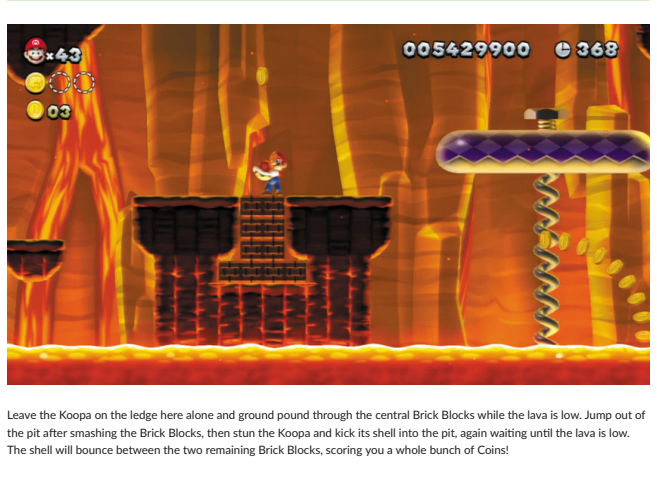
Wait for the lava to begin to rise below the first Star Coin, then hop onto the Buzzy Beetles that are milling about underneath the Star Coin. As long as they're floating atop the lava, you can ride on Buzzy Beetles as if they were platforms. Jump up and grab the Star Coin when the lava rises high enough.

Note

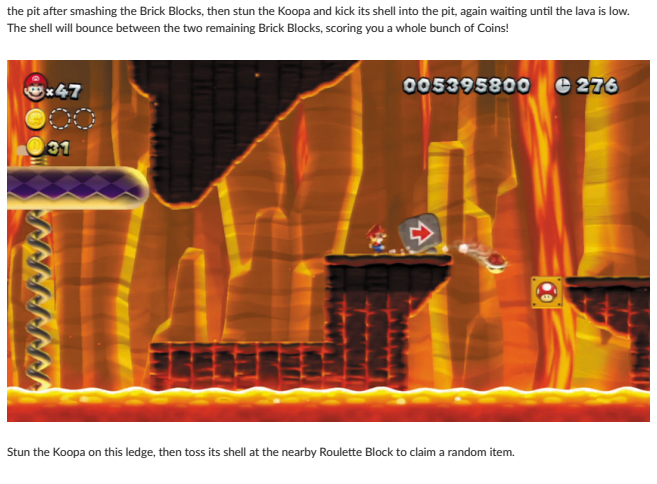
You can also simply bounce off the Buzzy Beetles while the lava is low, and bound up to the Star Coin.

Tip

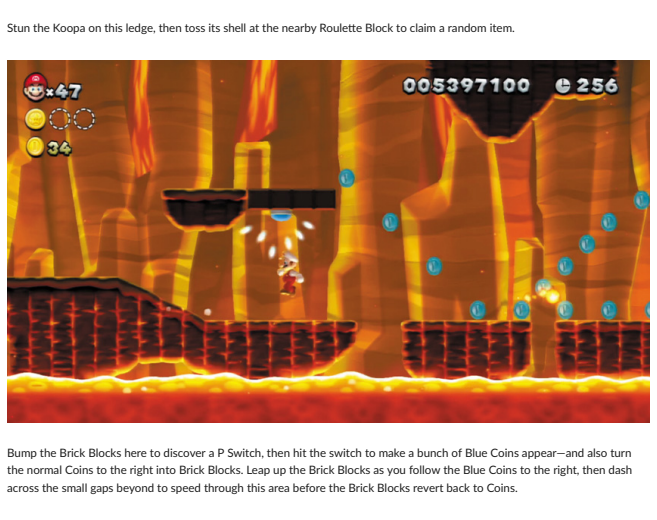
Flying Squirrel Mario can glide over and use a flying squirrel jump to collect the first Star Coin and land safely on the high ground above.



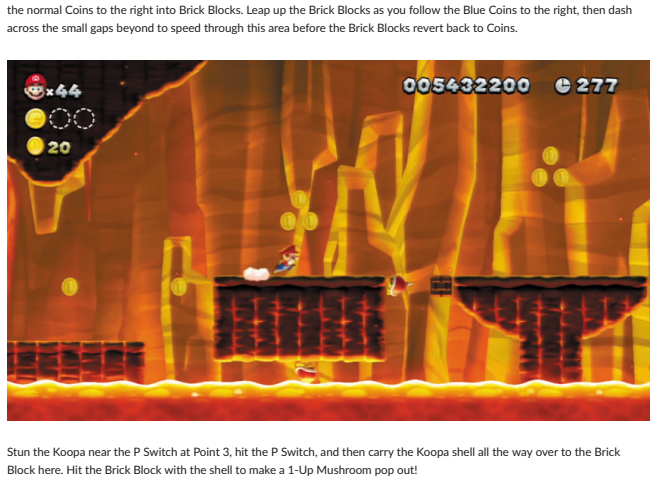
Leave the Koopa on the ledge here alone and ground pound through the central Brick Blocks while the lava is low. Jump out of the pit after smashing the Brick Blocks, then stun the Koopa and kick its shell into the pit, again waiting until the lava is low. The shell will bounce between the two remaining Brick Blocks, scoring you a whole bunch of Coins!



Stun the Koopa on this ledge, then toss its shell at the nearby Roulette Block to claim a random item.

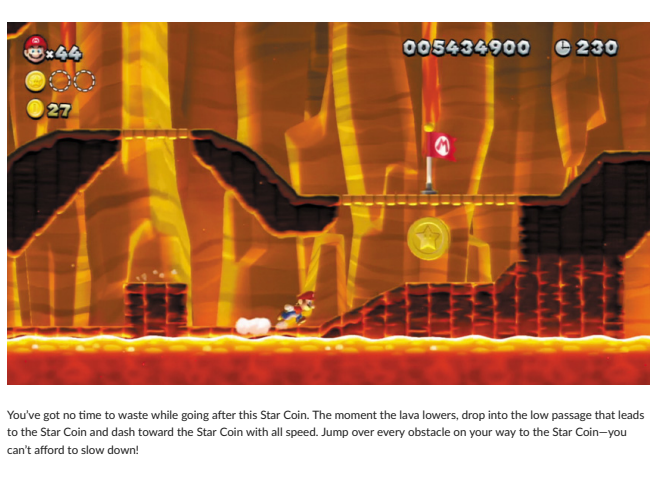


Bump the Brick Blocks here to discover a P Switch, then hit the switch to make a bunch of Blue Coins appear—and also turn the normal Coins to the right into Brick Blocks. Leap up the Brick Blocks as you follow the Blue Coins to the right, then dash across the small gaps beyond to speed through this area before the Brick Blocks revert back to Coins.



Stun the Koopa near the P Switch at Point 3, hit the P Switch, and then carry the Koopa shell all the way over to the Brick Block here. Hit the Brick Block with the shell to make a 1-Up Mushroom pop out!

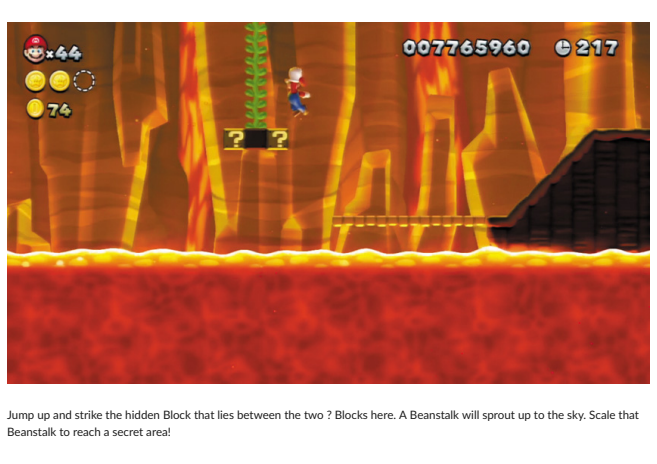
STAR COIN 2



You've got no time to waste while going after this Star Coin. The moment the lava lowers, drop into the low passage that leads to the Star Coin and dash toward the Star Coin with all speed. Jump over every obstacle on your way to the Star Coin—you can't afford to slow down!

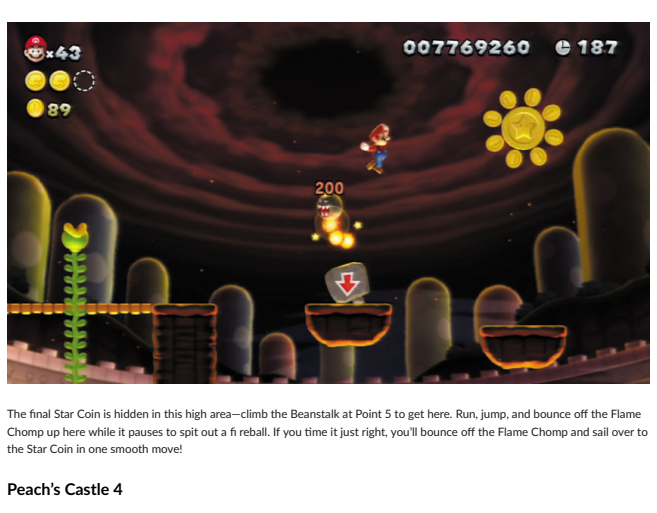
Tip

Slide down the short ramps in the passage that leads to the second Star Coin to pick up a bit of extra speed!



Jump up and strike the hidden Block that lies between the two ? Blocks here. A Beanstalk will sprout up to the sky. Scale that Beanstalk to reach a secret area!

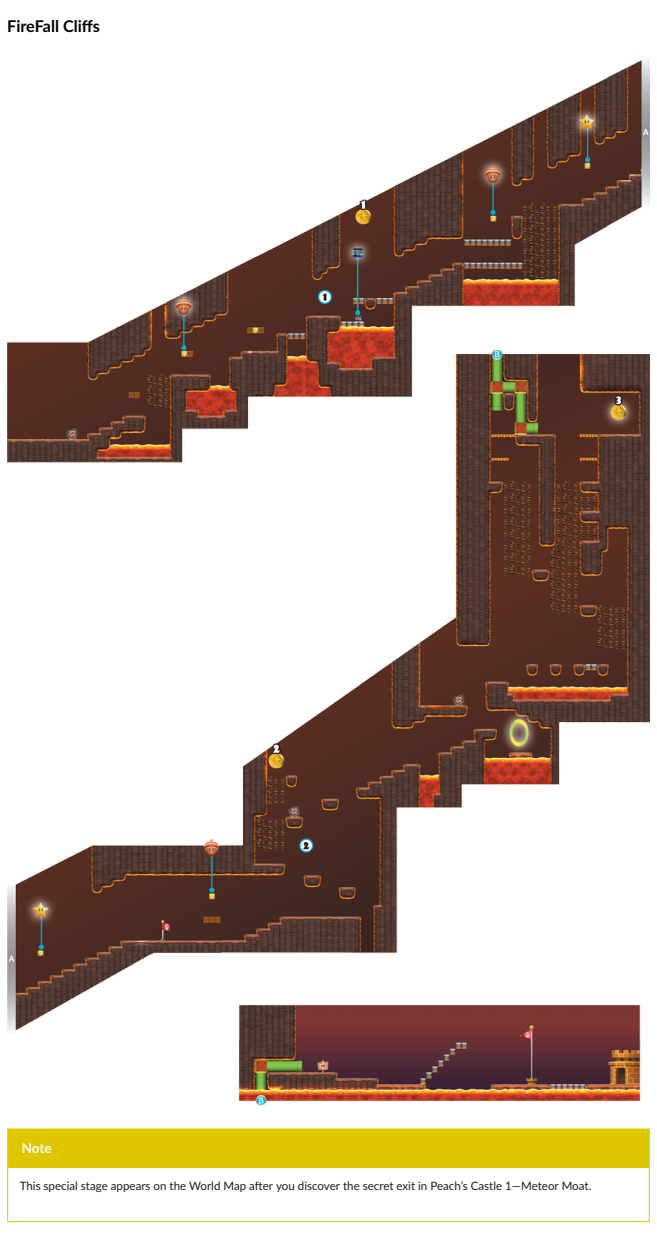
STAR COIN 3



The final Star Coin is hidden in this high area—climb the Beanstalk at Point 5 to get here. Run, jump, and bounce off the Flame Chomp up here while it pauses to spit out a fireball. If you time it just right, you'll bounce off the Flame Chomp and sail over to the Star Coin in one smooth move!

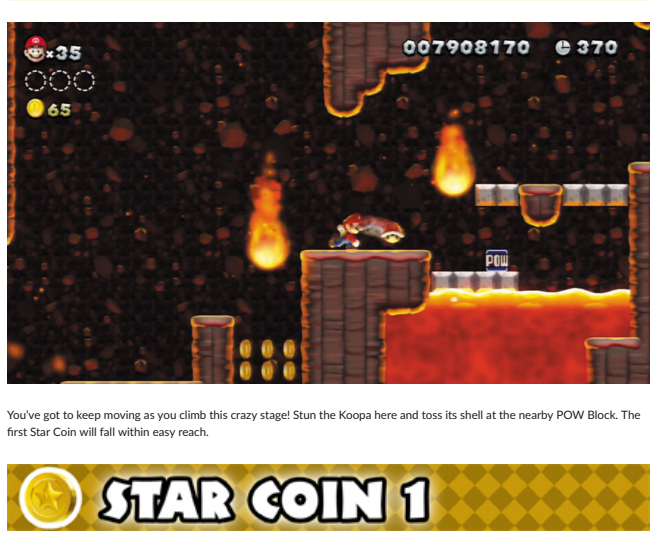
Peach's Castle 4

FireFall Cliffs



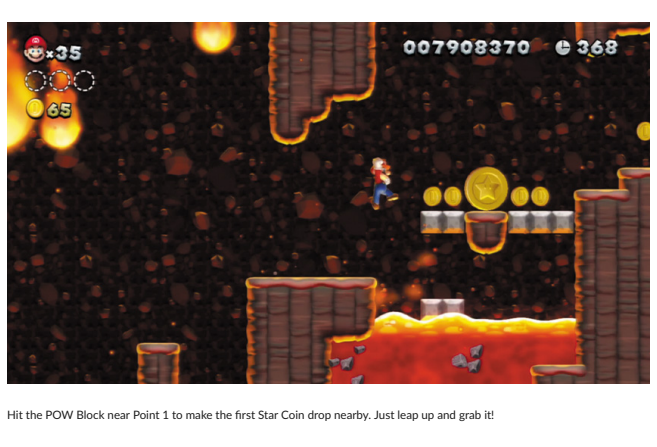
Note

This special stage appears on the World Map after you discover the secret exit in Peach's Castle 1—Meteor Moat.

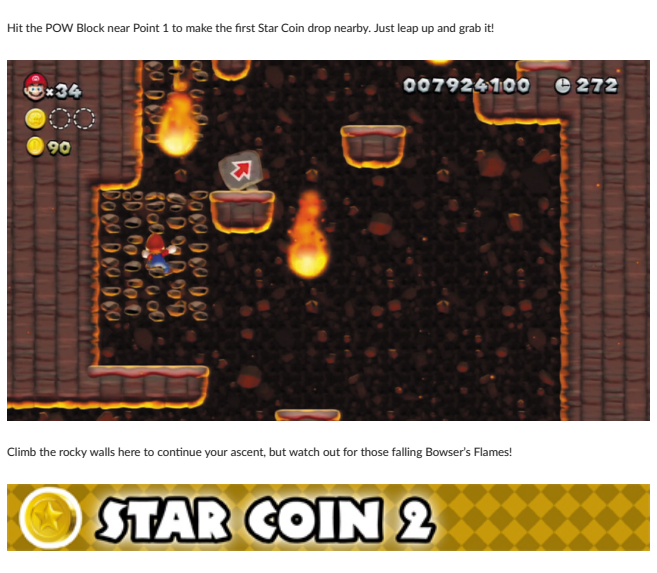


You've got to keep moving as you climb this crazy stage! Stun the Koopa here and toss its shell at the nearby POW Block. The first Star Coin will fall within easy reach.

STAR COIN 1

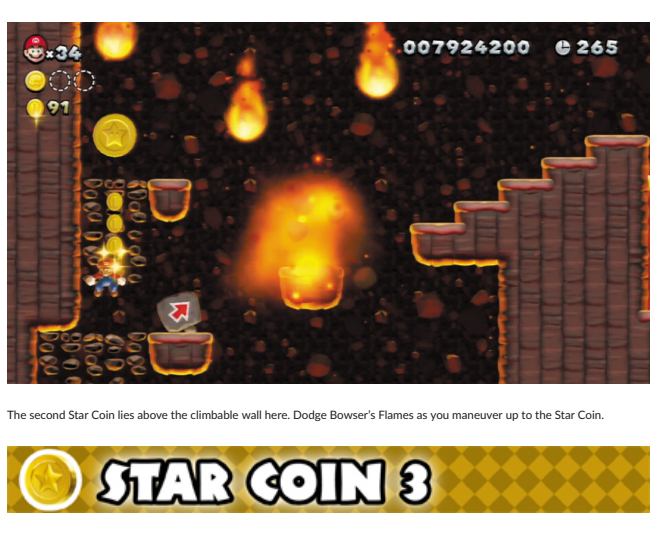


Hit the POW Block near Point 1 to make the first Star Coin drop nearby. Just leap up and grab it!



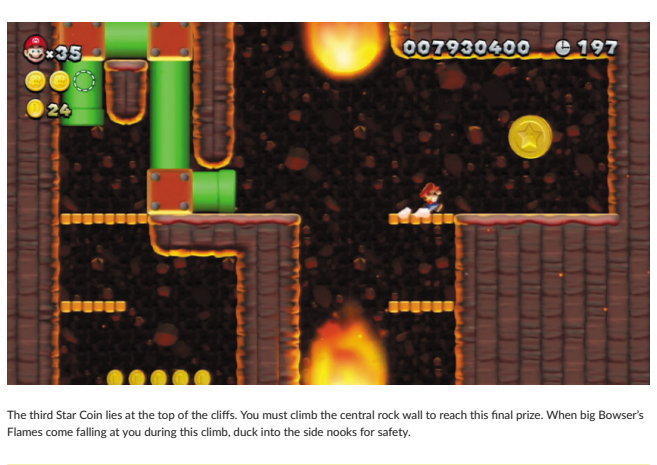
Climb the rocky walls here to continue your ascent, but watch out for those falling Bowser's Flames!

STAR COIN 2



The second Star Coin lies above the climbable wall here. Dodge Bowser's Flames as you maneuver up to the Star Coin.

STAR COIN 3



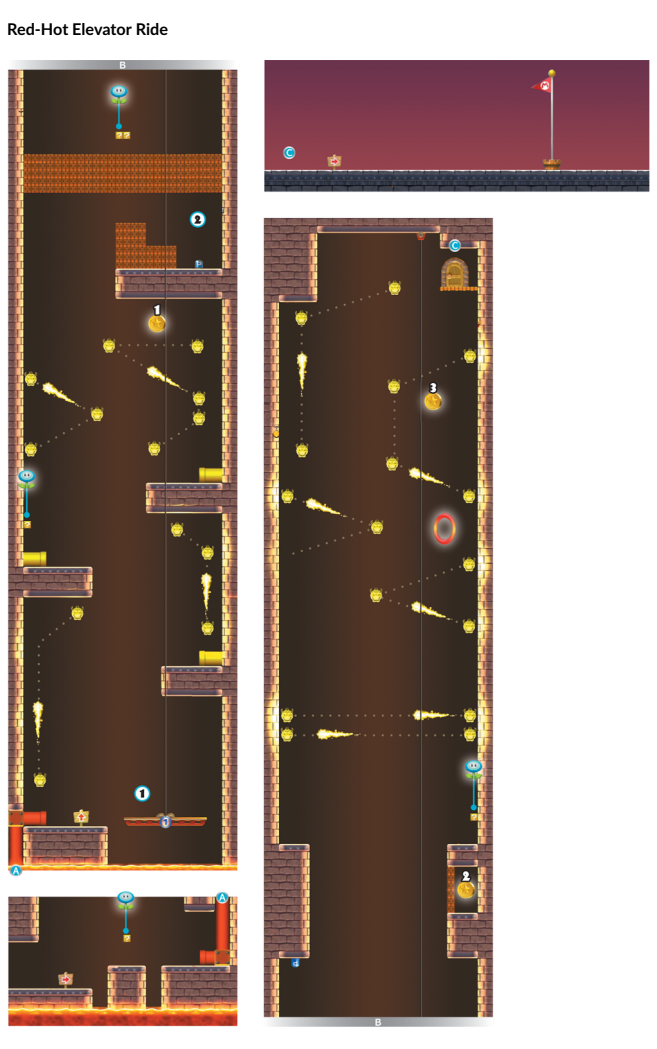
The third Star Coin lies at the top of the cliffs. You must climb the central rock wall to reach this final prize. When big Bowser's Flames come falling at you during this climb, duck into the side nooks for safety.

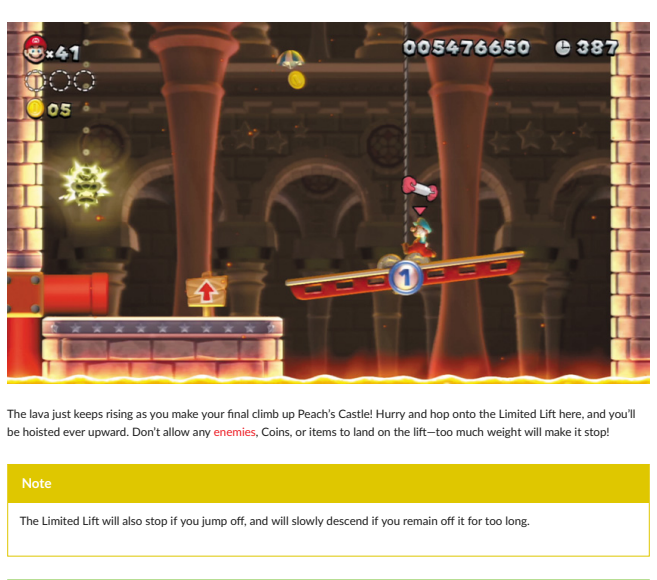
Note

No matter which Warp Pipe you enter at the top of the cliffs, you'll end up at the same exit. Both Warp Pipes lead to this stage's one and only Goal Pole.

Peach's Castle

Red-Hot Elevator Ride





The lava just keeps rising as you make your final climb up Peach's Castle! Hurry and hop onto the Limited Lift here, and you'll be hoisted ever upward. Don't allow any enemies, Coins, or items to land on the lift—too much weight will make it stop!

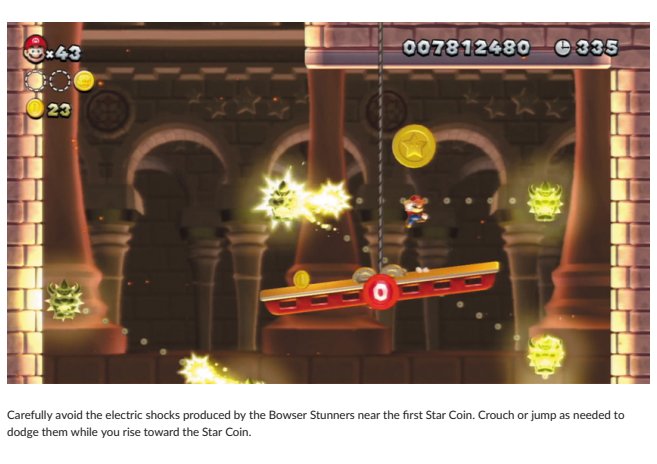
Note

The Limited Lift will also stop if you jump off, and will slowly descend if you remain off it for too long.

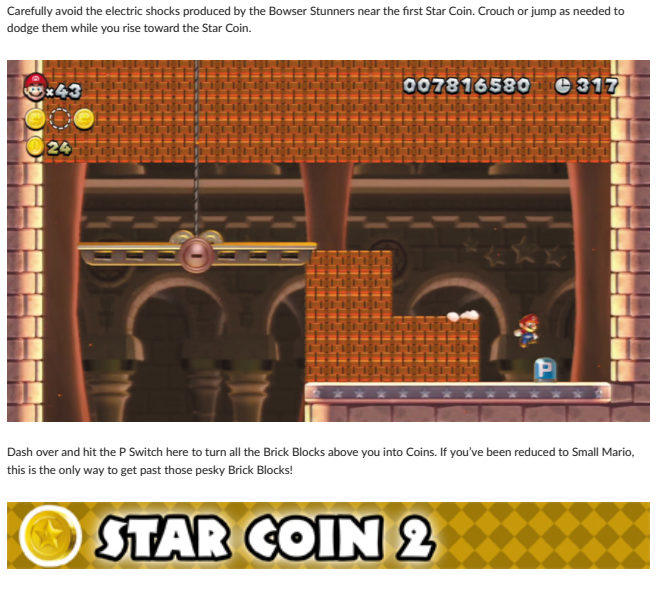
Tip

Maneuver the lift away from falling enemies and items—you might miss a few Coins, but it's more important that you keep climbing!

STAR COIN 1

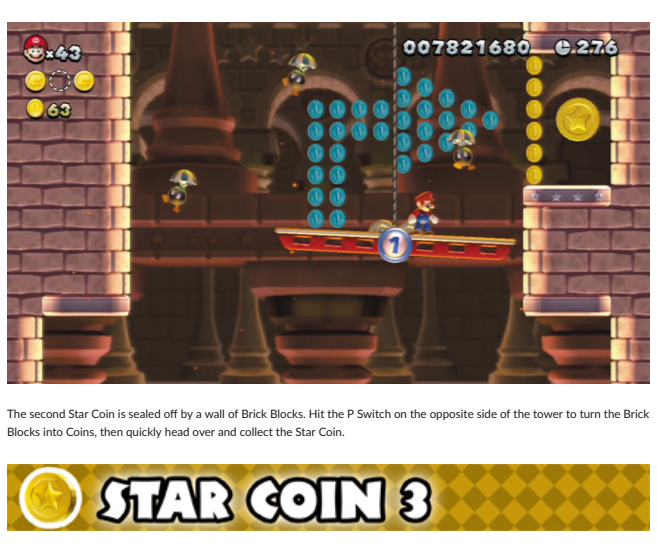


Carefully avoid the electric shocks produced by the Bowser Stunners near the first Star Coin. Crouch or jump as needed to dodge them while you rise toward the Star Coin.



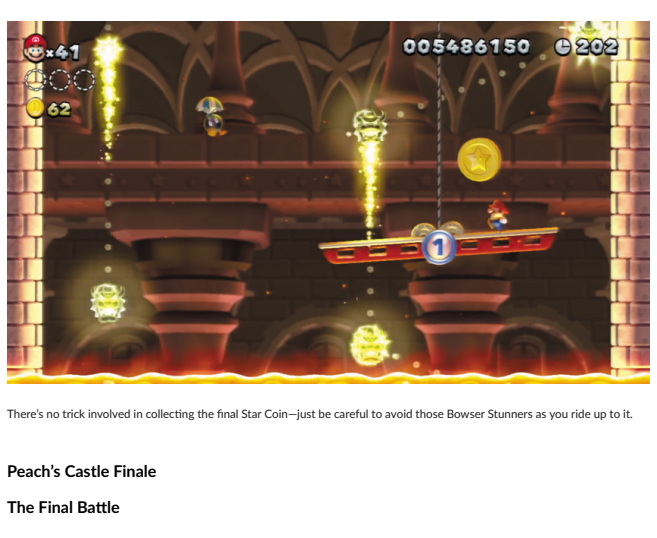
Dash over and hit the P Switch here to turn all the Brick Blocks above you into Coins. If you've been reduced to Small Mario, this is the only way to get past those pesky Brick Blocks!

STAR COIN 2



The second Star Coin is sealed off by a wall of Brick Blocks. Hit the P Switch on the opposite side of the tower to turn the Brick Blocks into Coins, then quickly head over and collect the Star Coin.

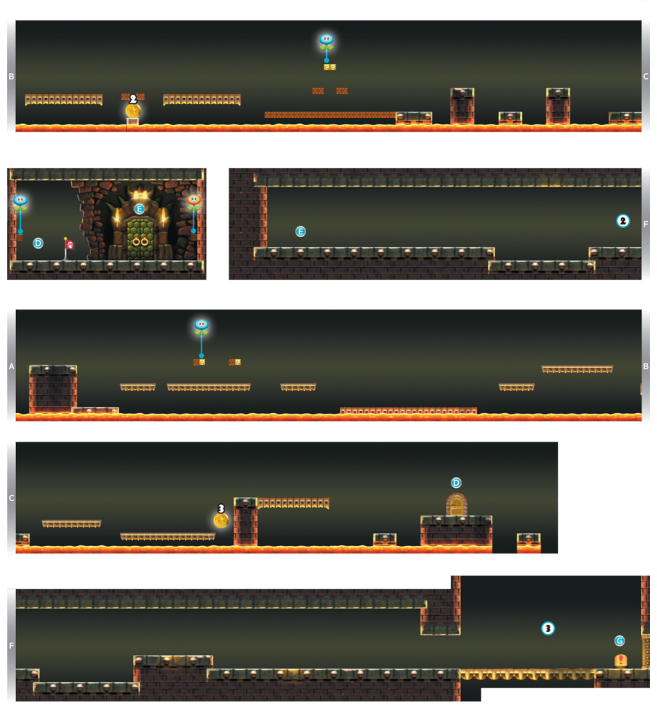
STAR COIN 3

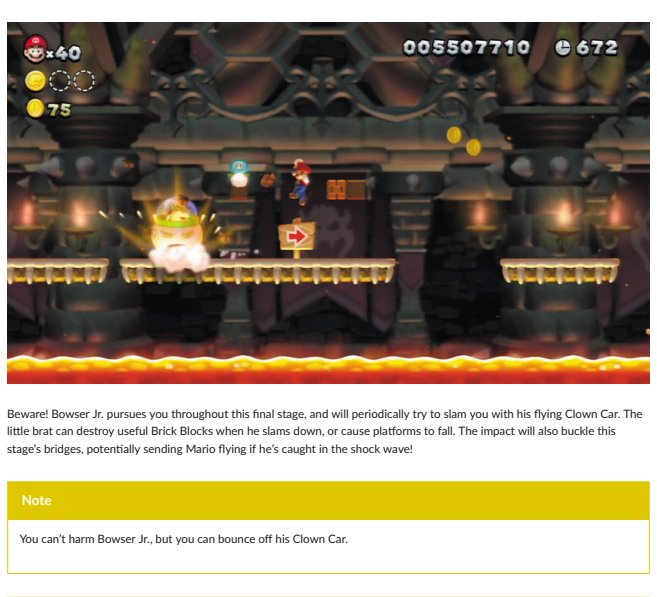


There's no trick involved in collecting the final Star Coin—just be careful to avoid those Bowser Stunners as you ride up to it.

Peach's Castle Finale

The Final Battle





Beware! Bowser Jr. pursues you throughout this final stage, and will periodically try to slam you with his flying Clown Car. The little brat can destroy useful Brick Blocks when he slams down, or cause platforms to fall. The impact will also buckle this stage's bridges, potentially sending Mario flying if he's caught in the shock wave!

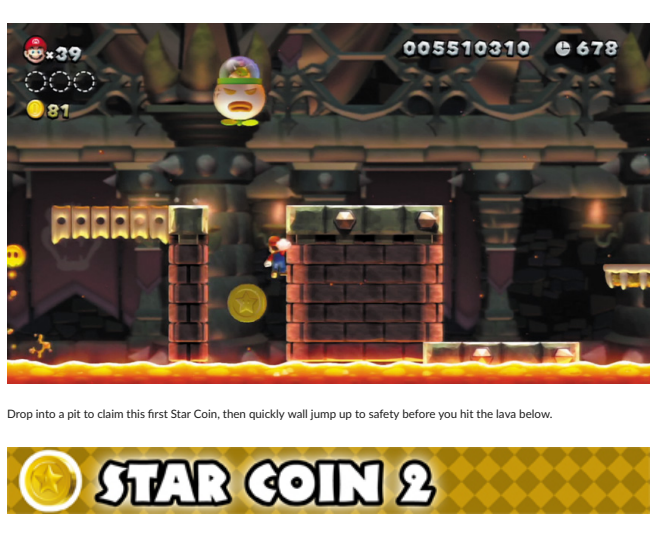
Note

You can't harm Bowser Jr., but you can bounce off his Clown Car.

Note

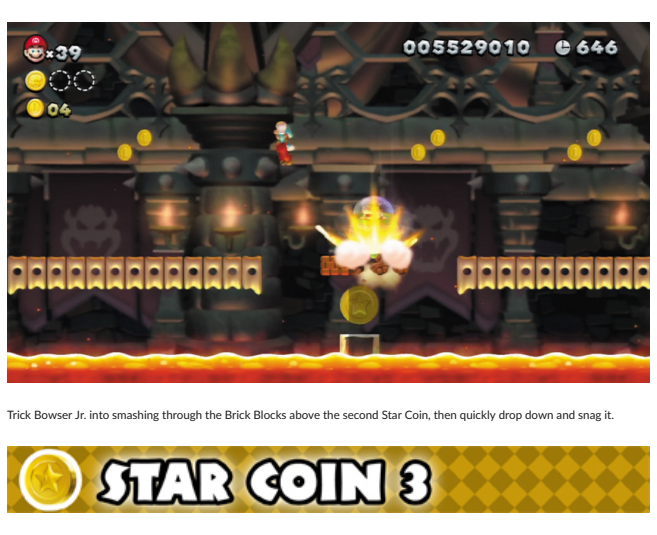
Platforms that Bowser Jr. knocks into the lava will return after a short time.

STAR COIN 1



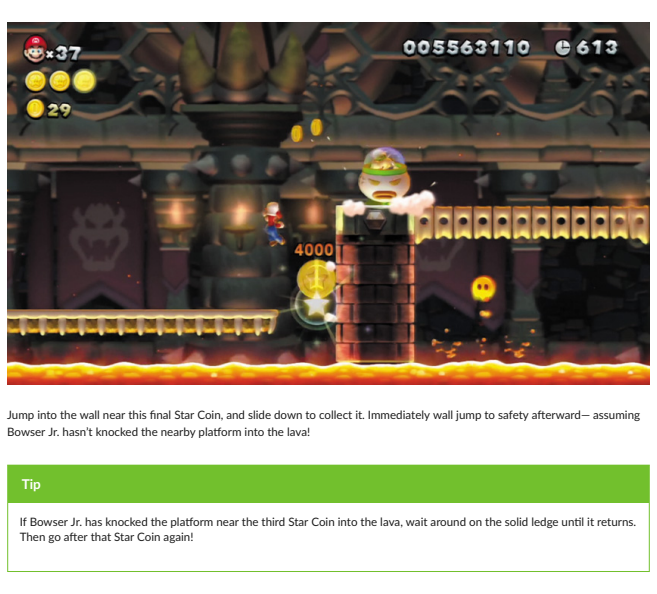
Drop into a pit to claim this first Star Coin, then quickly wall jump up to safety before you hit the lava below.

STAR COIN 2



Trick Bowser Jr. into smashing through the Brick Blocks above the second Star Coin, then quickly drop down and snag it.

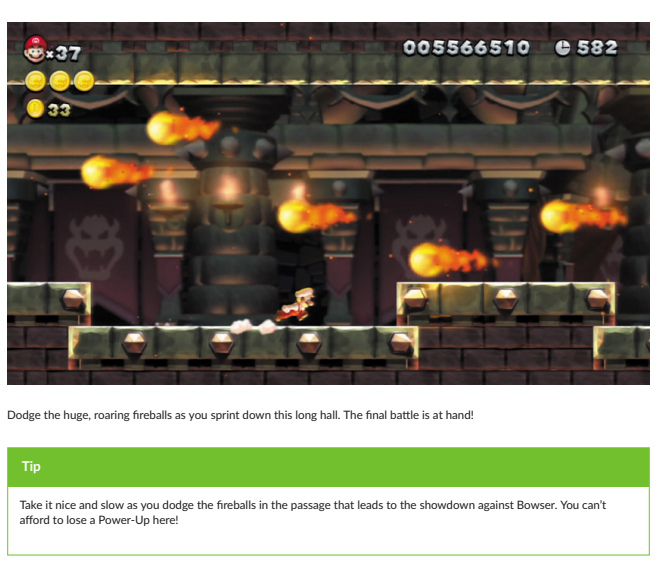
STAR COIN 3



Jump into the wall near this final Star Coin, and slide down to collect it. Immediately wall jump to safety afterward—assuming Bowser Jr. hasn't knocked the nearby platform into the lava!

Tip

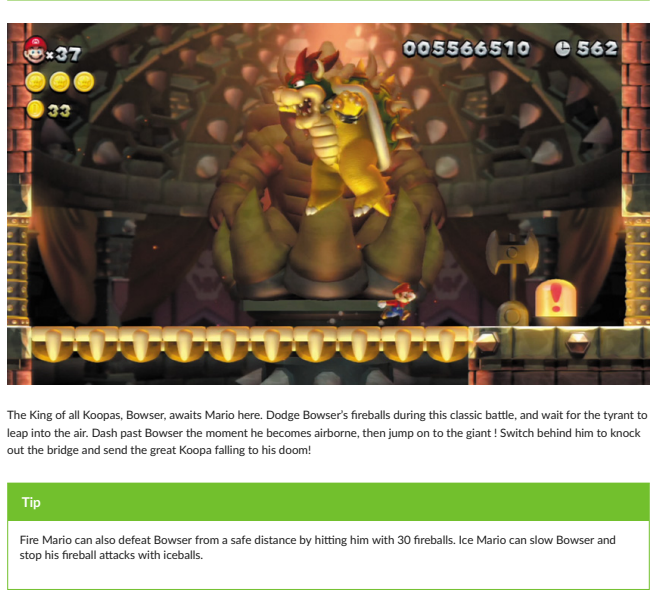
If Bowser Jr. has knocked the platform near the third Star Coin into the lava, wait around on the solid ledge until it returns. Then go after that Star Coin again!



Dodge the huge, roaring fireballs as you sprint down this long hall. The final battle is at hand!

Tip

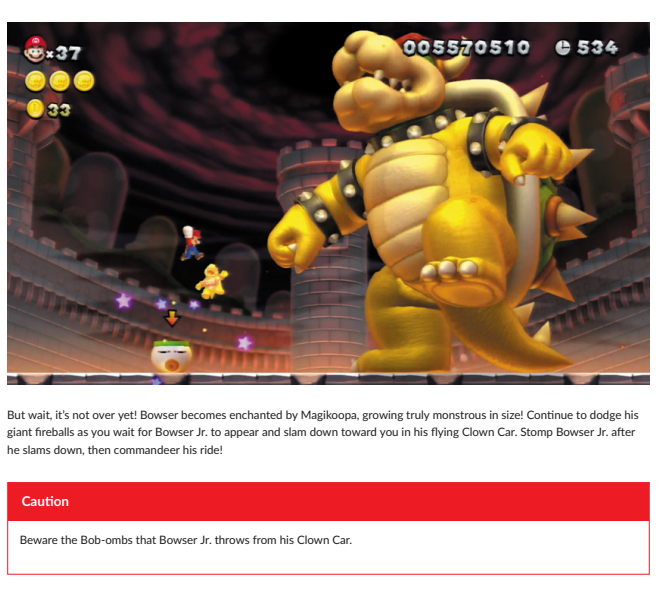
Take it nice and slow as you dodge the fireballs in the passage that leads to the showdown against Bowser. You can't afford to lose a Power-Up here!



The King of all Koopas, Bowser, awaits Mario here. Dodge Bowser's fireballs during this classic battle, and wait for the tyrant to leap into the air. Dash past Bowser the moment he becomes airborne, then jump on to the giant ! Switch behind him to knock out the bridge and send the great Koopa falling to his doom!

Tip

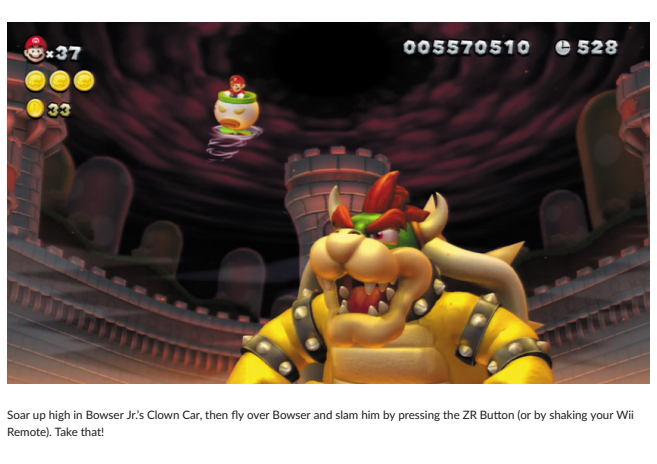
Fire Mario can also defeat Bowser from a safe distance by hitting him with 30 fireballs. Ice Mario can slow Bowser and stop his fireball attacks with iceballs.



But wait, it's not over yet! Bowser becomes enchanted by Magikoopa, growing truly monstrous in size! Continue to dodge his giant fireballs as you wait for Bowser Jr. to appear and slam down toward you in his flying Clown Car. Stomp Bowser Jr. after he slams down, then commandeer his ride!

Caution

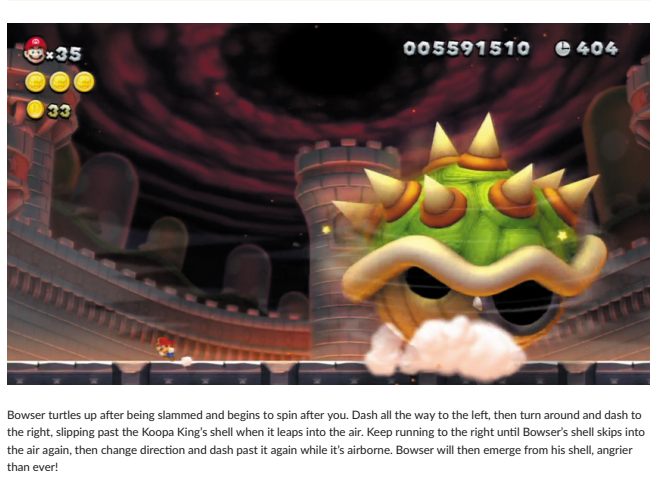
Beware the Bob-ombs that Bowser Jr. throws from his Clown Car.



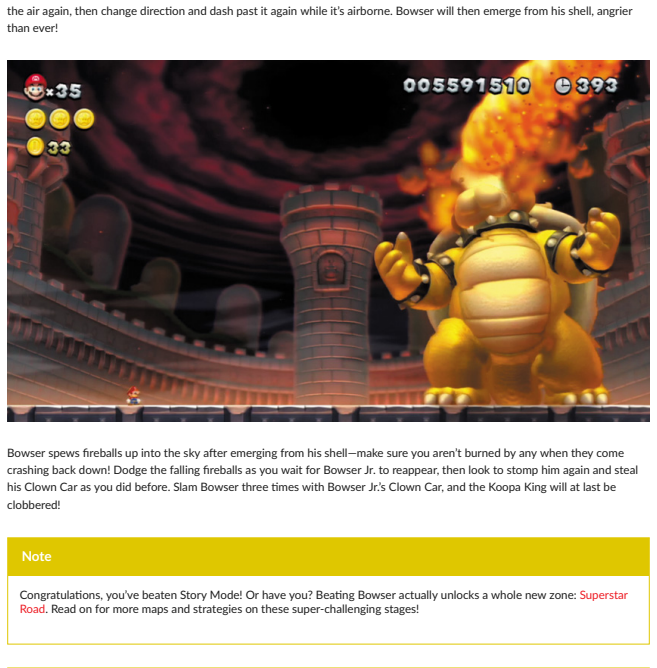
Soar up high in Bowser Jr.'s Clown Car, then fly over Bowser and slam him by pressing the ZR Button (or by shaking your Wii Remote). Take that!

Tip

Fire Mario can also defeat Bowser by hitting him with 180 fireballs. Every 60 fireballs equal one Junior Clown Car slam!



Bowser turtles up after being slammed and begins to spin after you. Dash all the way to the left, then turn around and dash to the right, slipping past the Koopa King's shell when it leaps into the air. Keep running to the right until Bowser's shell skips into the air again, then change direction and dash past it again while it's airborne. Bowser will then emerge from his shell, angrier than ever!



Bowser spews fireballs up into the sky after emerging from his shell—make sure you aren't burned by any when they come crashing back down! Dodge the falling fireballs as you wait for Bowser Jr. to reappear, then look to stomp him again and steal his Clown Car as you did before. Slam Bowser three times with Bowser Jr.'s Clown Car, and the Koopa King will at last be clobbered!

Note

Congratulations, you've beaten Story Mode! Or have you? Beating Bowser actually unlocks a whole new zone: Superstar Road. Read on for more maps and strategies on these super-challenging stages!

Note

Now that you've "beaten" Story Mode, you'll be able to save your progress at any time from the World Map menu. Handy!